



PUBS LOSE OUT TO STORE GIANT

Report by Richard Guttridge

TWO landmark pubs will be knocked down after a decision blocking a supermarket giant from building stores on the sites was overturned on appeal.

Pub regulars who hoped their locals had been saved have been left devastated by the ruling which will see the Summer House in Woodsetton and the Maypole Inn, Halesowen, torn down to make way for Co-op stores.

Campaigns were launched to try to save the pubs, both currently still trading, and appeared to have been successful when Dudley Council threw out the applications.

But an independent planning inspector has decided the Co-op should be allowed to move onto the sites.

It will also see a store being built next to the Ashwood Inn in Wordsley.

Councillor Jeff Hill, who represents Hayley Green and Cradley South ward, said the decision was 'frustrating'.

New River Retail, which bought both pubs from Marston's three years ago, had been urged to 'respect the views of residents' by not appealing when councillors made their decision.

Councillor Hill said: "It's very disappointing. There have been strong feelings locally."

"There is a lot of frustration that a body so remote from the local area, in Bristol, is able to overturn this decision. The Maypole has been part of the community since the estate was built, it is a well-used venue."

The Maypole, on Bassage Road, was listed as an 'asset of community value' as locals strived to show how important the pub was to the area.

Market

Hundreds also signed a petition calling for the Summer House, on Sedgley Road, near Birmingham New Road, to be saved.

Councillor Hill admitted there was little that could be done to stop the pubs being demolished. He added: "We will have to wait and see. It is possible there will be changes in the market and the Co-op won't want to build on there."

As well as the demolition of the Summer House and the Maypole, a store will also be built on the car park of the Ashwood Inn in Wordsley, another application which had been refused by the borough council. The pub itself will remain open.

Planning inspector Michael Boniface said he had taken the strength of feeling locally into consideration but felt it 'did not outweigh the benefits' of the scheme.

He also said he did not believe opening a supermarket on either site would have an impact on road safety, despite residents' concerns about more cars using both sites.

FLEUR SHOWS TRUE GRIT TO HELP BLIND VETERANS



Head of the property team at Talbot's, Emma Treacy, left, presents the cheque to colleague and Royal Engineers reservist Fleur Meacham

A LEGAL specialist has completed a grueling endurance test to raise more than £2,500 for Blind Veterans UK.

Dudley's Fleur Meacham, a team leader in West Midlands law firm Talbot's new build property team, took on a demanding 100km run from London to Brighton, overcoming steep hills, muddy bogs, obstacles and hedge rows in the process.

The Royal Engineers reservist surpassed her own expectations by finishing in just over 19 hours and this follows the Three Peaks Challenge she took on in 2015.

Impressed by her dedication and willpower, bosses at Talbot's agreed to donate £2,000 towards her fundraising efforts and this money will now be used to support blind veterans buying talking tin lids to help identify food, 'talking' watches and jumbo keyboards to help them use computers.

"It was a ridiculously tough challenge but when the rain is lashing down, the blisters are starting and the aches throbbing you just remember what you're doing it for and nothing else seems to matter," explained Fleur, who joined Talbot's last year as a paralegal.

"With my background as a reservist it was an event I wanted to be involved in and the money raised goes a little way to helping some of our blind veterans regain some of their independence."

"Training was a handful of half-marathons, running sessions and long walks, which helped prepare me for the aches and pains. A lot of it is in the mind, get that right and you'll be fine," she said.

Mary Mocklow, Chief Executive of Talbot's, said: "Fleur's determination in completing 100km is a real stand-out achievement."

POLICE

Bail for teenagers after fatal stabbing

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of father-of-two Simon Johnson in Netherton have released two teenagers arrested over the weekend. They remain on police bail pending further enquiries.

The 15-year-old boy from Old Hill, who was picked up by police on Saturday night, and 18-year-old man from Cradley Heath, arrested on Friday evening, are due to report to officers again in October.

Inquiries are continuing into the death of the 41-year-old window fitter who was found dead with stab wounds at his home on Cradley Road.

SPORT

£500k grant for new football pitch

A STATE-of-the-art football pitch will be installed at the Dell Stadium in Brockmoor following the awarding of a £500,000 grant.

The cash injection from the Football Foundation will pay for an all-weather 3G pitch with the aim of boosting sport in the borough.

Dudley Council's leisure boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We're committed to doing all we can to develop the leisure opportunities in the borough."

RETAIL

Last days for BHS at Merry Hill centre

THE BHS store in the Merry Hill Shopping Centre is due to close on Sunday, August 28, it has been confirmed.

The branch will become the latest in the Black Country to close as stores gradually shut down following the company's collapse. Stores in Wolverhampton and Walsall have already closed.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, boss of economic development at Dudley Council, said the loss of BHS was a blow for the centre and borough as a whole.

Company administrator Duff & Phelps failed to find a buyer for the business as a going concern.

INSIDE

DEER LITTLE ZOO ARRIVALS



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No new action on road after tragedy



David Hinton – hit by car

NEW safety measures will not be taken on a road where a father-of-eight from Halesowen was killed, say highways bosses. There had been calls for action following the death of Dave Hinton last year but Dudley Council has said there is no need for changes on Oakham Road. Mr Hinton, 47, died after being struck by a car as he strapped one of his children into the back seat of the family Peugeot in June 2015. People who live on the busy road have called for action to improve safety but council bosses say, following an investigation, changes are not needed. They

explained that monitoring had found only a 'very small minority' of drivers breaking the 30mph speed limit. Highways boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We met with the police who found no defect with the road surface or layout of Oakham Road and also took into account the coroner's report, which made no recommendations with regard to necessary improvements. "The court found that the death was caused by careless driving after the driver fell asleep at the wheel and found this tragic accident was not speed related. No further personal injury acci-

dents have been recorded on this stretch of road during 2015/16. A survey carried out shortly after the accident indicated that the majority of traffic was travelling at or close to the 30mph speed limit. "While our thoughts remain with Mr Hinton's family, there are currently no plans to implement further traffic calming measures on this stretch of road, which already benefits from a local safety scheme." Sajid Hussain, 36, was given a suspended jail sentence and a community order after pleading guilty to causing death by careless driving.

Travelodge hotel given go-ahead near archives

A HOTEL will be built close to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley after plans were approved.

The 78-bed Travelodge will be in Tipton Road and was approved by a unanimous vote of the borough council's planning committee – despite objections received from Friends of Dudley Archives, which is close to the planned budget hotel site. Friends of Dudley Archives opposed the plan on the grounds it will remove parking from the site, which will soon also be home to exhibitions moved from Dudley Museum and Art Gallery in the town centre. They had additional concerns that the new hotel could damage the area's look. Ian Hunt, senior project engineer for Dudley Council, said: "There is space at the back of the current car park which could give plenty of scope for an additional 20 or so (parking) spaces. Staff working different shifts could essentially block each other in if it was necessary to fully utilise the space."

Regenerate

Chairman Councillor Keiran Casey added: "I like this development. I think it's a really good application that can help regenerate the area and bring jobs which will boost the economy." His sentiments were echoed by Councillor David Vickers, who said: "It will be useful to have a hotel in the area. When people spend the night away, they are often looking for something relatively inexpensive and that's what Travelodge will offer." The four-storey hotel on the former Royal Brierley Crystal factory site would include 72 parking spaces. The factory was demolished in 2011 and the northern part of the site has been redeveloped for Dudley Archive and Local History Centre. Janet Lea, honorary secretary of the Friends, previously said: "The height and design of the proposed Travelodge Hotel is not in keeping with other buildings in the vicinity and would detract from the aesthetic design of the area. "The proposed housing development on the old hospital site and the increased use of the Dudley Guest Hospital is already making the road extremely busy."

Zoo hears pitter-patter of tiny hooves



Born out of season, baby reindeer Sunflower has become hugely popular at Dudley Zoo

A BABY reindeer born at Dudley Zoo has been named Sunflower by keepers at the popular venue. They chose the moniker for the month-old fawn, who was born out of season on the hottest day of the year so far. And just this week 12-year-old doe Blizzard gave birth to another calf – on Sunday she delighted keepers who had suspicions more babies were on the way. Keeper Holly Clayton-Wright, said: "The baby is lovely and is

feeding well and mum is also being really attentive. Blizzard is sensibly keeping the newborn in the cooler shade and out of the direct sunshine. We haven't managed to sex the baby yet, but it's lovely that Sunflower will have a playmate." Section leader, Jay Haywood, said of elder sibling Sunflower: "We wanted a name to mark her unusual birth in the height of summer and which also tied in with the flower names of some of the other females in the herd, so Sunflower

seemed the perfect compromise, especially as it blooms at this time of year." Sunflower was born on July 19, as temperatures rose above 30 degrees on site, with Lily choosing to keep her newborn indoors for 24 hours due to the heat. The Bambi-like Sunflower became a media star within hours of her birth but will soon have competition from her cute sibling. Their father Ghost arrived at the zoo shortly before Christmas.

Motorist is badly hurt as car hits lamppost

A DRIVER was critically injured after his blue Subaru smashed into a lamppost and flipped onto its roof. The man, aged in his 40s, was trapped in the wreckage of his car for 30 minutes following the crash in Stream Road, Kingswinford, at 5.30am, last Thursday. The Subaru's driver was taken to the major trauma centre at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Sergeant Paul Hughes, from the Regional Collision Investigation Unit, said: "I urgently want to trace the driver of a silver saloon style car that was overtaken by a small red sports car and a blue Subaru just before the crash. I also want to appeal to the driver of the red sports car that was travelling with the Subaru to get in touch." Fire crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill attended the scene and worked to release the man from the mangled wreckage.

Matthew Smith, spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service, said: "On arrival crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill found a car had hit street furniture and rolled off the side of the road and onto its roof. There was one casualty inside the vehicle, who was released by our crews." An ambulance spokesman added that the Subaru driver was trapped for about 30 minutes while firefighters worked with ambulance staff to free him. The crash happened between the junctions of Bromley Lane and Lesley Drive. Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Help back to the world of work

DUDLEY and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust has received funding to help adults with experience of mental health problems prepare themselves for training, voluntary work or employment.

It will work with Steps to Work to offer people additional support.

The funding comes as part of a new multi-million pound programme, Building Better Opportunities, a collaboration between the Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund.

Building upon the success of Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust's Employment and Vocational Services, this funding will allow the service to reach a wider population across the Black Country.

Back to the 1960s at glass cone event

A 1960s weekend is being held at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley. The High Street workshops and museum will feature cars, fashion, music and glass from the swinging 60s on August 27 and 28. The event will run from 10am to 4pm each day.

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Rider died after his motorbike clipped kerb

A MOTORCYCLIST was killed after losing control of his bike after he clipped a kerb, an inquest heard.

Allan Wright, aged 63, from Rosalind Avenue, Dudley, died at the scene of the crash on the A456 Bewdley bypass, near Wharton Park Golf Club, on June 9. Mr Wright lost control of his motorcycle after his back wheel clipped a kerb, heard Worcestershire Coroner.

Malcolm Smith, a HGV driver who witnessed the fatal crash, said: "It was about two o'clock in the afternoon and there were two cars in front of me. Allan passed me and the two cars and then pulled in front of them and then came out again."

"There was a little bit of kerb that sticks out and his wheel clipped that. The back of the bike twitched and lost control and hit the roundabout. The bike went flying through the air and hit a signpost. There had been no problem with his driving, he wasn't speeding but driving safe. It was a beautiful sunny day, so the visibility was good too."

The medical cause of death given was head injuries.

Mr Wright was a maintenance man and described by his family as a loving husband, father and granddad.

A technical calculation estimated the speed of the bike to have been around 30mph. A post mortem detailed that no alcohol was in his system.

Senior Coroner for Worcestershire, Mr Geraint Williams, concluded a verdict of accidental death.

Landlord speaks on pub damage

A LANDLORD has spoken out about the damage to his pub which he claims was caused by unruly members of the travelling community.

Mandeep Bains, of the Full Moon pub and Indian restaurant on Hurst Green Road, said: "They come into the pub to use our toilets and they leave them filthy, break the seats and throw toilet rolls everywhere. They make a lot of noise and then we get the blame for it."

"It is not just us. Lots of shops and another pub down the road have had trouble."

Mr Bains, who has been landlord at the pub for six years, added: "I try to do my bit in the community but the council needs to do more to stop them coming back."

Teenager arrested after a collision

A TEENAGER has been arrested on suspicion of drink-driving and dangerous driving. The 19-year-old was detained after a crash on Oakham Avenue around 11pm on Thursday. The other driver suffered minor injuries.

Anger over former care home bedsit bid



The Beech Tree House care home site

ANGRY Dudley residents turned out in force at meeting to oppose controversial plans to turn a former care home into more than a dozen bedsits.

The proposal is to transform the vacant Beech Tree House care home on Himley Road into a 22-bed house for multiple occupants.

At a meeting of Dudley Council's planning committee around 50 residents packed the room to voice their concerns. Councillors unanimously voted to defer a decision on the application until a site visit is made, due to concern over lack of parking.

It comes after West Midlands Police crime prevention design advisor PC Simon Barratt said these types of developments often become crime hot-spots in the planning officer's report.

When chairman Councillor Keiran Casey told the committee that letters had been sent out to 35 homes on the proposal, residents in the public gallery demanded to know where they were sent.

After the meeting, Raj Gupta, of Himley Road, said: "We heard nothing about this until it was in the newspaper. We quickly tried to speak

to as many residents as we could to try and drum up support to show the council how we feel about this."

"We feel very upset that we weren't properly told. We are concerned about security. We don't know who would be moving in but you would expect people who have drug problems, and that kind of thing, could be."

Jim Taylor, of Himley Road, said: "If it goes ahead it's likely to drive down house prices."

Councillor Casey said: "I understand all your concerns. The best thing to do is arrange a site visit."

Campaign aiming to stop rat run drivers

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to stop motorists using a residential street as a 'rat run'.

People living in Birds Meadow in Pensnett want to stop to people using their road as shortcut from Pensnett High Street.

They say motorists use the route to get to and from Tansey Green Road, avoiding a busy road junction.

More than 100 people have signed a petition calling for an 'Access Only' traffic order on Birds Meadow, backed by Councillor John Martin, of Brockmoor and Pensnett ward.

Gloria Raybould, aged 72, who started the petition with her husband Barry, said: "Motorists race along the road and don't even stop at the junction. Somebody is going to get killed at this rate. There has been some near misses. My daughter and son-in-law have been hit (by vehicles) in the past."

"The traffic has been a problem for years. I have lived here since 1976. We hope the traffic order will help the situation. With all the work that is being done at the top (Pensnett High Street), it is going to be a nightmare and we are trying to prevent some of that happening."

Petition

The petition will aim to stop motorists from using the road if they don't have legal access.

It is calling for measures along Birds Meadow to reduce traffic flow, stop people parking on both sides of the road near Pensnett High Street, and reduce the speeds of motorists.

Dudley Council said it will consult residents. It is proposing to install speed bumps and extend double yellow lines along Birds Meadow to coincide with the major Highways improvements to Pensnett High Street, which is due to start in January 2017.

Councillor Martin said: "I am supporting Birds Meadow residents calls for an Access Only traffic order for their street, which is blighted by rat-running motorists trying to avoid the bottleneck junction at Tansey Green Road, Pensnett."

"The junction is completely inadequate. It is not reasonable for Dudley Council to be using Birds Meadow as some kind of safety valve to release the pressure on what they know to be a very narrow road."

"Whilst speed bumps will slow traffic, it won't stop cars from travelling down the street."

Worry as more travellers invade sites



Travellers' caravans on Donkey Pool Playing Fields, Priory Road, where a community centre is planned

TRAVELLERS have been setting up more camps around Dudley, including at playing fields where the construction of a long-awaited community centre is due to start.

A group of travellers descended on the Donkey Pool Playing Fields off Priory Road, site of a forthcoming £700,000 community centre.

Then they moved on to Milking Bank, meaning that the legal process to move them on must start again.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are aware of the travellers at Milking Bank. They moved onto the site late Thursday night. Our officers are visiting so that we can begin the legal process to remove them. The police are also monitoring the situation."

"I can assure people we are doing everything we can to move the travellers on as quickly as possible."

Castle and Priory ward Councillor Ken Finch said: "It is very disappointing. As an authority we are doing all in our power to get them off the land."

"The effect it will have on the centre is what is most worrying. Work is due to start in the next few weeks."

Residents have been waiting nearly a decade for a new community centre to be built, after the previous one was demolished.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Work begins on fast food joints

WORK on two new fast food restaurants in Stourbridge is finally underway, two years after plans were first backed.

The development will include McDonald's and KFC drive-through branches off Mill Race Lane, on the outskirts of the town centre.

A spokesman for A & H Construction said: "Work started on August 1 and is due to be finished by March 10."

It is thought at least 65 jobs will be created by McDonald's with a further 40 at KFC.

Run-down Legion to be demolished

A RUN-DOWN former Royal British Legion building will finally be demolished almost a decade after closing its doors.

The Kinver branch of the Royal British Legion has become an eyesore since closing in 2007 and has regularly been a target for vandals.

Members were forced to move out as the building on High Street was no longer viable. Six homes are set to be built in its place.

An application to demolish the building has been approved by South Staffordshire Council.

Charity concert in memory of MP

A CONCERT in aid of the Jo Cox Memorial Fund is being held on Bank Holiday Monday.

Musicians Adam Sayer, Jess Silk and Ian Marrey are among those performing at Katie Fitzgerald's in Enville Street, Stourbridge, on August 29 at 7.30pm.

There is a minimum donation of £3 to attend with the money going to causes close to the heart of the murdered Labour MP for Batley and Spenningsdale.

Country fair back on at village meadows

KINVER Country Fair, which had to be cancelled in June due to flooding, now takes place on Sunday, September 4. The River Stour broke its banks after torrential rain forcing the event to be called off at short notice.

The Royal Signals' White Helmets motorcycle display team, which had been due to appear, have been re-booked. Tickets purchased for June are still valid for the new date at Stag Meadows. Admission is £5 adults, £3 teens and under-13s free.

Camra branch AGM

STOURBRIDGE and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra) is holding its annual meeting next month. Members are asked to bring their membership cards along to the meeting in the Duke William, in Coventry Street, Stourbridge, on September 14, at 8pm.

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TWO news reports on the same day this week provide food for thought. First, the University of Wolverhampton unveiled plans for a new 10-storey development of 800 student flats. Next, a survey by the insurance firm Aviva revealed that more than a third of graduates regret going to university. Half reckon they would have landed their current job without a degree. No surprises there. It is blindingly obvious that Britain can never provide enough high-level jobs for the 745,000 graduates and post-graduates leaving university each year – with an average of £40,000 debt apiece.

YET the academics and developers in Wolverhampton, and in dozens of other university towns and cities, clearly see no end to the higher-education boom. New teaching and accommodation blocks are going up everywhere, providing excellent employment for bricklayers, plasterers, electricians and plumbers, and huge profits for building contractors.

Isn't it curious that the people making real money out of the university boom, the ones who are debt-free and currently swanning around the Med on long, long holidays, are tradesmen who never went to university? Somewhere in here there is a PhD in irony.

INCIDENTALLY, the holiday I most envy this summer is the five-week trip skippering a 35-foot yacht around the Greek islands, currently being enjoyed by the bloke who empties my septic tank. Where there's muck, etc . . .



J E W I S H jokes, Irish jokes, casual sexism and a "Red Indian" dance committing the unpardonable sin of cultural appropriation. Does anyone

at the Yesterday channel vet the repeats of 1970s The Two Ronnies before screening them? And do we all feel guilty about laughing?

A TWITTER account in Walsall says it will "name and shame" men caught urinating on its CCTV camera (Okay, not actually on the camera but in the area covered by the camera). The implication is that offenders, including two suspected bus drivers, have some choice in the matter.

I can only assume that those setting the trap have not yet reached middle-age and experienced the eye-watering urgency that can go with blood-pressure tablets or prostate problems. If there were more public loos there would be less public peeing.

A DAILY Telegraph reader reports that the e-passport gate at Heathrow has instructions which begin with the order to remove your glasses.

He can't tell us what the following instructions were.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Scene of the damage after huge blaze

A HUGE fire at a recycling firm in the Black Country started accidentally, an investigation has revealed.

The blaze happened at Environcom's recycling yard in Lye on August 7.

West Midlands Fire Service investigators have said the fire was accidental, caused by the over-heating of a cooling substance recycling from fridges and freezers at the site.

Huge plumes of black smoke from the fire at the Rufford Street site was visible for miles around, even from Edgbaston cricket ground. It led to a stretch of Stourbridge Road being closed for several hours and a cautionary warning to trains passing nearby.

Pictures of the devastation caused by the blaze have been shared on Twitter by Sandwell photographer

John Kennett, including charred cars at neighbouring Stratstone Land Rover. The flames spread to the dealership, who have confirmed that they have now passed the incident on to their insurers.

A spokesman for Environcom said: "We would like to thank the West Midlands Fire Service for their prompt and effective response to the incident."



The devastation left by the fire at Lye

Four children a week excluded for racism

By Nick Humphreys

MORE than four children a week are excluded from school for racist abuse of their fellow pupils in the Black Country, according to shock new figures.

The data, compiled by New Schools Network, revealed that there were 160 cases across Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall and Sandwell schools which were serious enough to warrant a fixed or permanent exclusion in the 2014-15 academic year.

Across the West Midlands there were 600 cases and since 2008-09, the region has seen almost 4,000 exclusions for racist abuse.

The West Midlands has the highest proportion of exclusions because of racist abuse in England. In 2014-15, there were 4,000 cases of racist abuse, amounting to 20 exclusions a day.

Dudley had the most, with 60 children being excluded. Of all children excluded from school in the area, 2.84 per cent were removed due to racist abuse. In Wolverhampton, 30 children were excluded, a percentage of 2.56. Walsall had 40 children excluded and Sandwell had 30 children excluded.

Need

The analysis comes as New Schools Network has successfully argued for a new category of 'social need' to be part of the free school application criteria. This means that free school proposals will now be considered for approval if there is a proven 'social need' for the new school.

One of the benefits of this new category is that proposals can now be brought forward with the explicit intention of creating more integrated schools in areas where existing schools are divided on racial lines.

New Schools Network, which helps groups wanting to set up free schools, has already met local organisations and existing schools interested in founding new schools.

Chip shop is hoping to batter rivals



Chip off the old block – Zach Ioannou at Oldswinford Fish and Chips on Hagley Road, up for a national award

A STOURBRIDGE fish and chip shop run by two brothers has been shortlisted in a competition to find the best in the UK.

Brothers Zach and John Ioannou are co-owners of the Oldswinford Fish and Chips on Hagley Road, which was first opened by their father Andreas in 1977.

They are delighted that after deciding to enter for the first time this year, they have made the final of the 2017 National Fish and Chip Awards, organised by Seafish.

The shop is among six that will compete in the region, and to reach this stage they have already been praised by industry experts across a variety of judging criteria, including menu and innovation, sustainable sourcing policies, customer service, staff training marketing and

promotional flair, and how they attract new customers to fish and chips.

Over the coming weeks, the shortlisted shops will be subjected to further judging as the competition will whittle down the line-up to a UK top 20. Following a further judging stage, the overall national winner will be announced in January after a seven-month judging process.

Zach said: "It is brilliant to be recognised. We are a family-owned fish and chip shop that has been running for nearly 40 years. This is the first time we have entered the competition, and we are very pleased and are hoping to go even further. It's going to be a lot of hard work over the next few months."

Homes vow as mayor candidate campaigns

AN ex-Labour MP who wants to be the first West Midlands metro mayor, launched his campaign in Dudley vowing to build thousands of new homes.

Labour MEP Siôn Simon was joined by party deputy leader and West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson to kick-start his bid at a housing development at the Guest Hospital site.

If elected in May, Mr Simon would take responsibility for transport, housing, mental health services, and economic development for an area covering the Black Country, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull.

Mr Simon, a West Bromwich Albion fan and former Labour MP in Birmingham, said: "It was great to see this development in Dudley. This is an historic site and many people in Dudley will remember the old Guest Hospital."

"Dudley Council is setting a great example and if I am elected as West Midlands mayor in May I will double the affordable new social housing being built – that's 3,000 new affordable homes to rent built every year in the West Midlands. What I'm saying on housing is simple: More council houses. More and better quality homes across the board. And affordable means affordable."

Mr Watson added: "Siôn's commitment to truly affordable housing is front and centre of his offer to the people of the West Midlands."

Elections will take place on May 4. The other parties are yet to announce their candidates.

Police crack down on cannabis farms

MORE cannabis plants have been seized by West Midlands Police than by any other force, figures reveal.

Statistics for 2014/15 show the force uncovered more than 54,700 of the drug plants, significantly more than the second largest haul – 41,569 – seized by Greater Manchester Police in the period.

In the wider West Midlands, incorporating other forces, a total of 69,803 plants were seized.

Factories used to be raided and dismantled by regular officers but West Midlands Police have set up a dedicated Cannabis Team in response to a dramatic rise in production of cannabis.

More recent figures revealed West Midlands Police seized £9 million worth of the class B drug in 2015/16.

Patrols to target the menace of off-roaders

POLICE are to step up patrols around the Wrens Nest and Priory estates in Dudley following complaints over the menace of off-road bikers.

Youths have caused a nuisance in recent weeks and police are investigating.

Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership



Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople

perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Dudley & the surrounding areas and manager Brian Stanley agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good

business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Three new homes at industrial site

HOMES are to be built on a former industrial site in Stourbridge.

Dudley Council have granted permission for the new builds in Seymour Road, Wollescote. The three homes will have two parking spaces each. An electric charging point will also be provided for each house.

One objection was raised by a nearby resident in regards to the positioning of the entrance to the development.

It is an urban 'brownfield' site formerly a steel stockyard and joinery shop.

Scratchings firm sponsor ale fest

A SCRATCHINGS firm is to be the main sponsor of a Black Country real ale festival.

JT Scratchings, in Wolverhampton, is helping organisers of Sedgley Real Ale Beer Festival.

The event is taking place in First Sedgley Scouts Group's Jubilee Hall, off Ladies Walk, on September 23 and 24. There will be more than 30 beers and eight ciders available this year.

Festival profits will go to the scouts, Children in Need and Cystic Fibrosis. It is being run with the help of the Horse and Jockey pub, at Woodcross.

Theatre in appeal for football fans

A THEATRE is looking for Albion, Villa and Blues fans to help create a new play called Stadium.

Birmingham Repertory Theatre wants fans from the clubs for the play, which will focus on devoted supporters. The play is by French director and writer, Mohamed El Khatib.

To take part contact 0121 245 2023 or email Rosalyn.lesurf-olner@birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 245 2023. Details at birmingham-rep.co.uk/furnace website.

Beacon challenge to be held in aid of centre

THE annual Beacon Butler Challenge Cup, a pan-disability golf tournament, is being held in Sedgley next month.

The tournament, which includes a free admission family fun day running from 10am to 4pm, is hosted by the Mark Butler Golf Academy in Sandyfields Road on September 24.

The event raises funds for the Beacon Centre for the Blind.

To find out how to enter contact MBGA on 01902 880305 or the centre on 01902 880111.

Village produce show

THE Belbroughton Horticultural Society's 55th annual plant and produce show will be held at the village's Church Hall on Saturday, August 27.

The staging of exhibitions takes place between 9.45am and 12.45pm, before the show is officially opened at 2.30pm. Admission will cost 50p.

Dancers at discos are raising cash for charity

A REGULAR disco at a Brierley Hill venue is getting people dancing while raising funds for a voluntary organisation.

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service is now managing the Brierley Hill Civic Hall, where regular Ultimate Decades disco nights are held. They are set to continue for the rest of the year, complete with a huge stage lighting show and big screen videos.

Ultimate's Andy Tain said: "It's just a fantastic night with really great music from across the decades and coming right up to date. It covers almost everyone's tastes and the folk who have been coming along have had a great time. The fact that the charity benefits directly is a massive plus point as well."

As well as regular Decades nights, there are Soul and Motown and Club Tropicana 80's nights - as well as Family Discos where the whole age range is catered for.

James Challis from Dudley CVS said: "It's a great venue, that has been under used for public events over recent years, so Dudley CVS have teamed up with Ultimate to put on regular nights as well as live tribute bands."

"We keep bar prices fair, tickets are cheap, so customers are delighted and if the charity can benefit from folk having a great time, it's a win-win situation."

For more information, email andy@ultimate1.co.uk or visit the website www.UltimateNightOut.com or call 0121 515 4180 or 01384 573381.

Academy aiming to expand school

A SECONDARY school in Tipton looks likely to expand after council planners were urged to approve proposals for a new two-storey building.

Bosses at RSA Academy have submitted plans for the building which would include 18 new classrooms, a dining room and new kitchen.

They said in the planning application the move could allow the school to increase its pupil capacity by nearly 300.

The new building would see the school's current sports pitches relocated, according to a planning statement submitted by the academy.

Council officers have now recommended the project get the go-ahead and it was set to be rubber-stamped at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

Club is appealing for new members

A CLUB that recently marked its 60th anniversary is appealing for new members to join. Brookmoor Darby and Joan Club meets every Monday (excluding Bank Holidays) from 1pm to 3pm. Call 01384 378723.

Golf club is up for sale at £2.25m

"WE hope someone will take the club forward in a manner that we can all continue to be proud of."

The words of Hagley Golf and Country Club's managing director, Peter Johnson, as the popular course is put on the market, with offers invited in the region of £2.25 million.

The club at Wassell Grove, near Halesowen, has been put up for sale by the Garratt family following the death of the club's principal shareholder Michael Garratt.

Their facilities include an 18-hole (par 72) golf course, a 28-bay floodlit golf driving range, an all-weather short game area, golf academy and professional's shop.

The mature course has played host to a number of

high-profile competitions, including the Senior Midlands County Regional Qualifier in 2015, the County Brandhall Golf Vase in 2016, and is the proposed venue for the Worcestershire County Championship in 2017.

There is also a two storey clubhouse which includes four conference and function rooms, four bars, staff accommodation and a business centre with seven let office suites.

Mr Johnson, who took over the running of the club in 2000, added: "My family has owned the club since its inception in 1980 and the land on which it sits for more than 150 years. The family is very proud of its long association with the club and its members."

"Some of our highlights include the business centre which opened in 2014, the refurbished locker rooms in 2015 and the main championships that we host too, which have been prestigious."

"Sadly since the death of Michael it has changed the family dynamic, so we think it's the best time to test the market. For 36 years the family have owned the club and a lot of what we have done has been with the committee, and we would like it to remain as a golf venue rather than anything else."

The club has more than 500 members. It is set in 170 acres with views overlooking the Clent Hills and the golf course is considered one of the most challenging in the area.

Windfall will have big impact on job prospects

MORE than £50 million will be pumped into the Black Country in a bid to boost employment prospects for young people, it has been announced.

The project is a joint scheme between Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton councils which started two years ago.

Called the Black Country Impact scheme, it is aimed at helping unemployed people aged between 15 and 29. It attempts to help them in to work, education and training.

The councils were quickly joined by Black Country Talent Match, a project led by the Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council and funded through the Big Lottery.

The partnership has won approval from the Department of Work and Pensions for £34 million of new European Union funding, matched by £8 million from the Big Lottery Fund. More cash will come from partners, bringing the total to spend on the programme over the next two years to £51million.

Barriers

The project aims to help young adults overcome the barriers to employment by providing a programme tailored to their individual needs.

This includes by having a key worker or mentor trained to support the young adult with employability and skills, offering advice and guidance which could also incorporate help with travel, childcare and equipment, and even brokering between the individual and the opportunity they decide upon.

Dudley Council took responsibility for steering the project. Leader Councillor Pete Lowe said: "We are delighted to have successfully secured these much needed funds for our residents. There can be no doubt that these are challenging times for some young adults in the Black Country."

"Through the Black Country Impact we are determined to tackle the barriers that may be preventing some young adults from becoming all they can."

"Impact gives its partners the ability to work across the sub-region, co-ordinating activities and simplifying access to services."

"With European Social Fund and Youth Employment Initiative funding, Impact is able to provide a depth of service that would not be achievable for our young adults by any other means currently available."



Opera, Countdown and Loose Women star Lesley Garrett is to sing at Dudley Town Hall as a special guest of the Gentlemen Songsters

Opera star Garrett to join the Songsters

POPULAR opera singer Lesley Garrett will be singing in Dudley as special guest of a local choir.

The soprano will be the guest at the Kingswinford-based Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir's autumn concert to be held at Dudley Town Hall on September 24.

The concert will be compered by TV presenter Joanne Malin. Tickets costing £25 are available in advance on 01746 763850.

The 61-year-old Yorkshire-born singer has released more than 15 albums since her 1991 recordings debut and her 1995 album Soprano in Red received the Gramophone Award for Best-selling Classical Artist of the Year.

Garrett was a featured artist on the platinum selling Perfect Day single released in aid of Children in Need. She was a contestant in the first series of Strictly Come Dancing, a regular on Countdown and Loose Women, and took part in Who Do You Think You Are? as well as many musical shows. She was awarded a CBE in 2002 for services to music.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Tragic end for such a magic goalscorer

WHEN Dalian Atkinson ripped up the Wimbledon defence in 1992, Villa fans had never seen anything like it. Starting deep in his own half, the moment he nonchalantly ran past the opposing players like they did not exist to chip the goalkeeper from outside the penalty area, he had the goal-of-the-season competition sewn up. And it was only October.

So it comes as little surprise that a generation of football fans have put aside club rivalries to mourn the death of the former Aston Villa striker, at the tragically young age of just 48.

Atkinson was a flawed genius, who delighted and frustrated fans in equal measure. He was unquestionably one of the most talented players of his generation, but struggled with injuries and never really reached the potential he obviously possessed.

But on his day, such as that miserable wet afternoon at Selhurst Park 24 years ago, he brought huge pleasure to thousands of people. That goal will surely have been watched over and over again during the past few days.

We do not yet know circumstances surrounding Atkinson's death at the end of a police Taser gun. His nephew said he had a heart condition, and it may well be that he had other problems, but it is unquestionably a heartbreaking end to a life for someone with so much to live for.

As the new football season gets going in earnest, it is a timely reminder that there are more important things in life than football results. And that all the fame, wealth and adulation in the world can provide no protection against personal tragedy.

□□□

SPECULATION that grammar schools could be in line for a comeback has been met with howls of derision from the usual suspects.

The National Union of Teachers – which for some reason is taking a six-week break from its usual threats of industrial action – is predictably against the plans, saying selective schools are 'socially divisive', and do nothing to improve the chances of youngsters from 'ordinary' backgrounds.

Well over the past half century, since the introduction of the first comprehensives, we have had nine prime ministers. Two, Tony Blair and David Cameron, went to elite private schools. Of the other seven, who all came from 'ordinary' backgrounds, six went to grammar schools or similar.

Comprehensive-educated William Hague, Iain Duncan Smith and Ed Miliband had a go at taking on posh boys Blair and Cameron, but they didn't do terribly well at it, did they? The NUT says that for every grammar school there has to be a secondary modern. The NUT vision would see every child go to a secondary modern rebranded as a comprehensive.



Suzanne Evans should have been allowed to stand, says Mr Cash



Nigel Farage – 'one of the great popular radicals'



Steven Woolfe not standing 'like leaving out your star striker'

UKIP's battle is won, says Cash as he quits

William Cash has quit UKIP over fears that the party is lurching to the right.

Report by MARK ANDREWS

AS political careers go, it has been a short one by any standards. Two years after becoming one of UKIP's most high-profile new recruits, William Cash has quit the party, voicing fears that it is about to lurch towards the far right.

When Mr Cash, of Upton Cressett, near Bridgnorth, joined UKIP in 2014, it caused a stir mainly because of who is father was.

As the son of the veteran eurosceptic Tory MP Sir Bill Cash, who was a constant thorn in the side of John Major's government during the 1990s, his appearance on the Ukip front-bench inevitably attracted a lot of attention.

He was immediately appointed the party's spokesman for culture and heritage, and was selected to fight the key Tory marginal seat of North Warwickshire at last year's General Election.

At the time, Sir Bill – who only discovered the news when contacted by a reporter – was quick to distance himself from his son's political viewpoint although he pair agreed to disagree.

Betrayed

"I totally disagree with him," Sir Bill told a reporter. "I absolutely totally reject the idea. I have no idea why. I know he has got a thing about the heritage, whatever that is supposed to mean."

Up until then, William Cash junior freely acknowledged he never had any real interest in politics.

"I joined UKIP, because I felt the Conservatives had betrayed Britain when it came to the countryside and heritage," he said. Mr Cash says despite his misgivings about the future direction of the party, he is still proud of what



William Cash, pictured at Upton Cressett Hall in Shropshire at the time he joined UKIP

UKIP has achieved.

But he says the party has now achieved what it set out for, with Britain's withdrawal from the European Union, and has no appetite for continuing as a member of what he fears will become a populist right-wing movement tapping into the fears of voters in the north.

He is also unhappy about the party's decision to ban Shrewsbury's Suzanne Evans and euro MP Steven Woolfe from standing in the party's leadership election.

"It is like putting out a football team without allowing your two star strikers on the field," said Mr Cash.

"I can't think why you would not want to have the widest talent pool available.

"I was very frustrated that Suzanne Evans is still under 'suspension' from the party and is not able to stand as leader when she is the best candidate Ukip have. Ukip's leadership

race has not been edifying and Suzanne most certainly should have been standing for the leadership."

The decision to stop Mr Woolfe from standing sparked the resignation of three members of the party's national executive committee.

Mr Cash said: "I don't think UKIP has clothed itself in glory with the leadership election. I think to outsiders it looks like a typical UKIP shambles."

He criticised the decision to suspend Miss Evans over allegations she had criticised a fellow candidate. Miss Evans, the party's former deputy chairman, claimed her suspension was because of her liberal views on gay rights.

Mr Cash, who contested the North Warwickshire seat for UKIP at last year's General Election, said: "I fear that it may be heading in an Enoch Powellian 'far right' direction.

"The fact that Suzanne Evans is not even

able to stand as leader because of her suspension, due to her progressive views on gay rights, tells you everything you need to know about the current state of UKIP.

"If UKIP veers towards the anti-immigrant, anti-gay rights, that was not what I signed up for."

The contest will now be between West Midland Euro MP Bill Etheridge, who is also a Dudley councillor, Jonathan Arnott, Diane James, Lisa Duffy, Phillip Broughton and Elizabeth Jones.

But while Mr Cash has concerns about the future of the party, he is full of praise for the party's outgoing leader Nigel Farage, saying his achievements will be remembered long after David Cameron and George Osborne have been forgotten.

"Nigel Farage will go down in history as one of the great popular radicals of modern politics and will be remembered by history, along with my father Sir Bill Cash and other loyal eurosceptics such as former cabinet minister Owen Paterson, for being on the right side of history."

But while he is also full of praise for Tory eurosceptics, Mr Cash says he has no plans to follow them into the Conservative Party.

"I was delighted that UKIP managed to play such an important role in securing such an historic victory against the political establishment," he said.

"I was proud to have won enough Labour votes in North Warwickshire – over 8,000 – to ensure that the Tories won the seat when it was the number one target gain seat for Labour."

"Tory wins in such critical West Midlands marginals helped secure the Tory majority at the election of 2015 which ensured we had the referendum vote."

He says until the picture becomes clear of how the political landscape will pan out in the wake of the Brexit vote, he will not be joining any other political party.

"I am open-minded about but I won't be joining any political party at the moment," he said. "I will be continuing to fight for the causes I believe in, namely fighting to save our democracy from the EU and the aesthetic soul of heritage and countryside of Shropshire and Britain with my pen from now on."

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Geese are the problem at parkland

I have read with some disbelief that the dog ban at Himley will continue.

The area in question has at no time since its enforcement been used by a single picnicker to my knowledge and I use the park almost every day. However, the area we dog owners are allowed to use has been taken over by a flock of geese whose faeces are everywhere, preventing children from playing there and people from walking there without treading in it.

The whole area is covered in droppings and (as geese do) it is spreading over the

Rush to digital hits the elderly

THE older generation is becoming more marginalised, through no fault of their own, by hospitals, doctors surgeries, local government departments, utility services, the police and the emergency services, to name but a few.

Getting in touch with them can be a nightmare and the problem is compounded further if you are not IT literate or do not have a mobile phone, tablet, laptop, or PC.

W Lockley has a similar problem with his local Barclays branch as they are trying to coerce him into conducting future banking business online. As one of the older generation he says this is something he can do without and I would agree with him.

Apparently, he previously made payment on his Barclaycard over the counter at his local Barclays branch. Now he has seen that remittances can only be made online or direct debit.

Is this a case of discrimination do you think?

JB WALDRON
Stourbridge

whole park. No attempt has been made to clear it.

I challenge Khurshid Ahmed to walk round the park and then review the dog ban. The area I speak of is not fit for purpose and totally un-hygienic for children to use

We regular dog owners have on many occasions had to pick up litter, such as beer cans, used nappies, etc, that have been left after functions at the park and still we are treated in this shabby manner.

D WHITE
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Big Sam sparks a happy Town memory

CONGRATULATIONS to Dudley-born 'Big Sam' Alldredge on being appointed as the new England manager.

Sam as we know is a home grown football manager who also played for Dudley Town FC.

All the recent talk about Dudley brings back happy memories of my own association with Dudley Town FC as a junior supporter often selling programmes at the old ground in Birmingham Road, with my pal Geoff Harris.

One special memory is of a match which involved a much earlier England connection. The match was a friendly between a Notts County XI and Dudley Town. The teams included

two of Wolves great players, Jesse Pye and Peter Broadbent. Also playing that night were England internationals Frank Broome and Leon Leuty together with Ron Wylie who went on to achieve Championship and League Cup honours with Aston Villa.

My favourite Dudley players at that time were Eddie Morgan, goalkeeper Bill Harris and the centre-forward Hourian.

To my shame I cannot remember what the match was in aid of, nor the final score.

Well, it was 64 years ago and I was only 13. Perhaps one of your readers can provide more information.

HR JONES
Kingswinford

Show pride and respect

I WISH Dudley Town Hall was in front of the borough cemetery at Queen's Cross, because perhaps then the frontage of the cemetery from the gutter up would not be the weed ridden eyesore that it is.

Duncan Edwards, who still has visitors paying homage at his grave, is buried there along with many other loved ones. There is, of course, a lovely statue of Duncan in the marketplace and Ian Austin MP wants a blue plaque honouring Duncan placed in Priory Park.

Well, how about the council showing some pride and respect for his and other people's final resting place. With cuts to funding, Dudley doesn't appear to have any money for the 'living or the dead'. However, not long ago it found the money to pay an employee £800 a day.

M GILL
Dudley

Sad to hear about home

I was very sad to read your report on The Red House, Kingswinford. We had a relative in the care home for three years and the care and attention was fantastic. On one visit we were greeted at the door by a gent from CQC, who asked to speak to us, we gave him our honest opinion, told him it was 'caring care', he put that remark online and the home had a very good report.

Mrs O'Donnell would no doubt have felt the strain the last few months, but let's not forget that the care in that home was wonderful.

C FOX
Wordsley

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High Street sealed off after attack on man, 28

PART of Dudley High Street was sealed off after a suspected assault which left a man in a seriously condition in hospital.

Police were called to the disorder at around 8.15pm on Sunday, after a 28-year-old man had suffered head and facial injuries. He remained in a serious but stable condition in hospital on Tuesday.

Police cordoned off a stretch of the High Street on Sunday night and police officers were seen patrolling the scene around the cordons on Monday morning, as shoppers were directed away from the scene.

Around noon a police van arrived with six officers who began combing and searching the area, making their way from the top of King Street down to Blowers Green Road.

No arrests had been made as The Chronicle went to Press.

A West Midlands Police spokesperson said: "The road has been sealed off as part of the investigation and anyone with information should call Dudley Investigation Team on 101."

One resident, who wished not to be named, said they heard noises in the street at

Report by Clare Butler

around 8.45pm on Sunday. They added: "Police arrived at the scene and cordoned off the road. An ambulance arrived and they were here with the police."

An employee from Powell Electrical Ltd, on the junction of Churchfield Street, said: "A high police presence was around and one of the detectives came to our shop to look at our CCTV. It seems the attack was outside of our shop by the crossing."

The cordon was lifted at 1.30pm on Monday.

Ambulance service spokeswoman Claire Brown said: "We were called just after 8.30pm to reports of an assault. One ambulance attended and conveyed a man with a head injury to hospital for further treatment."

Calves killed in farm barn blaze



Firefighters at the blaze at White House Farm, near Halesowen, where six calves died in the fierce fire at a barn

SIX calves died and 11 others needed veterinary care after a suspected arson attack at a farm near Halesowen.

Firefighters from across the West Midlands were sent to tackle the blaze at White House Farm which broke out at around 9.15pm on Sunday.

Around 150 bales caught fire off Lutley Lane, Hayley Green, which then spread to a nearby barn which contained the 17 calves.

Farm worker, Louis Rose, described the horrifying scene. She said: "Someone called me and said that they could see flames and hear the screams of the calves. It was horrific."

"I could see the flames roaring in a red mist. Six of the calves are dead and the remaining are under veterinary care. It is just unthinkable that someone could do something like this."

Two crews from Haden Cross fire station were joined by teams from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill stations, and later by other crews from across the Black Country, Wolverhampton and Birmingham. West Midlands Fire Service said they are treating the blaze as suspected arson.

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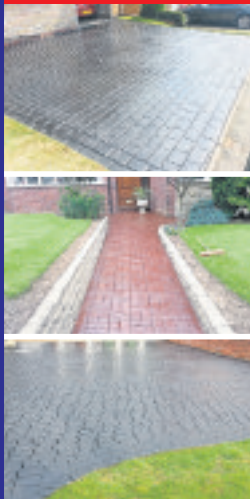
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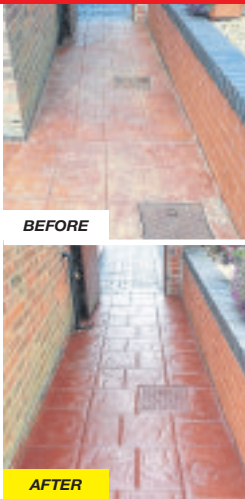
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Villa legend Dalian dies in Taser incident



Ron Atkinson with goal-scorer Dalian Atkinson when Villa beat Manchester United in the 1994 League Cup Final

TRIBUTES have flooded in from some of the biggest names in football for former Aston Villa striker Dalian Atkinson who died after being Tasered by police.

Officers were called to a late night row at the home of the 48-year-old's elderly father Ernest. The devastated 85-year-old has told how his son was 'agitated' and upset when the police arrived at the house in Telford at around 1.30am on Monday.

West Mercia Police said officers were alerted after concerns were raised 'for the safety of an individual' and then used the Taser. Dalian Atkinson died

around 90 minutes later. An ambulance was called but the former player went into cardiac arrest on the way to hospital.

His former club manager Ron Atkinson led the tributes to the 'immensely talented' forward, saying his unexpected death was devastating. The larger-than-life boss, who signed the striker for both Sheffield Wednesday and Villa, said: "It's tragic. This is something you can't comprehend really. Dalian was a player with immense talent and he had a habit of coming good in big games."

'Big Ron' said the Telford-born forward

was well-liked during his time at Villa. He said: "He was very popular amongst the rest of the boys, and was always really generous. He was a very jolly lad and was always smiling."

Tributes have also been paid by such names as pundit Gary Lineker, former Wolves boss Dean Saunders, Villa midfielder Jack Grealish, Staffordshire-born ex-player Stan Collymore, defender Paul McGrath and the new owner of Villa Dr Tony Xia.

Atkinson's father said the former footballer was in a troubled state in the moments leading up to the incident in Trench, Telford.

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Every little doesn't help as zoo gets TV exposure

EVERY Little Helps unless you want to go to Dudley Zoo, despite Tesco's new advert being filmed at the family attraction.

Supermarket giant Tesco may have recently filmed its latest national advert at the zoo's monkey enclosure. But visitors and Tesco shoppers are not able to use their Clubcard points to enter the zoo.

Four Colombian black spider monkeys, called Valentine, Charlie, Chester and Evita, play starring role in the new 'Monkey Business' Tesco commercial, alongside actors Ruth Jones and Ben Miller.

The advert is one of three which showcases the different activities families can enjoy over the holidays as part of the supermarket's reward initiative. However, visitors to the zoo are unable to use their Tesco Clubcard points to pay for entry.

Zoo manager Matt Lewis said: "We've never been involved in the Tesco Clubcard scheme, but the advert isn't specific to DZG and generally highlights the different days out you can enjoy with the loyalty card scheme."

"We were approached by a television production company who had been subcontracted by Tesco to film the advert."

A Tesco spokesman said: "Our new adverts are designed to show the type of fun days out our customers can enjoy by using their Clubcard points."

"Locations used in filming were not designed to highlight a particular attraction as being part of the scheme."

Clubcard customers can use their points at the nearby Black Country Living Museum.



A screenshot shows actors Ruth Jones and Ben Miller with their screen children at Dudley Zoo

Party suspension for Labour councillor

A DUDLEY councillor has been suspended from the Labour Group. The party whip has been removed from Councillor Jackie Cowell, who represents the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood ward, amid an investigation into her conduct.

West Midlands Labour spokesman Chris Lee said: "I can confirm that Dudley Labour Group has withdrawn the whip from Councillor Jackie Cowell." No details of why Councillor Cowell has been suspended have been revealed by the Labour Group.

Councillor Cowell, who chairs the council's planning committee, said she was unhappy with the decision, which she said involved an internal dispute. She said she intended to appeal against the ruling.

Dudley Council's deputy leader Judy Foster said she could not comment on the suspension as an appeal process had begun.

Councillor Cowell will still be able to attend council meetings but will not appear as a Labour member. She will also be stopped from attending planning committee meetings.

Trustee in walk to highlight grants axe

A COUNCIL decision to cut £308,000 in funding and grants from Age UK Dudley has been condemned by a trustee of the charity who has now decided to do a sponsored walk to raise money.

The withdrawal of funding by Dudley Council will come into effect in two stages – from October 1, 2016, and April 1, 2017.

The cuts mean that Age UK's Springboard activity centre at the Waterfront, Brierley Hill, is now at risk of closure and that health and wellbeing services for the elderly provided by 53 staff and more than 300 volunteers could be lost.

The decision has been criticised by trustee Mike Thomas who said: "This will result in a reduction or complete loss of services such as information and advice, the good neighbour scheme and day centres in Sedgley and Brierley Hill."

Isolation

"It would appear some councillors place more importance on maintaining weekly refuse collections as opposed to combatting loneliness and social isolation of the elderly in the borough."

Mr Thomas and his son Liam are holding a sponsored walk to raise awareness of the issues and everyone is welcome to join in.

The walk was being held on Monday, starting at 10am from the charity's head office at The Waterfront in Brierley Hill.

The route was due to go past Shopmobility at the

By Judith Hawkins

Merry Hill Centre, Stepping Out, at Brierley Hill, and the Day Centre, at Myles Court Brierley Hill, before going on to the Council House, Dudley, the Day Centre, Sedgley, and then returning to The Waterfront.

The planned walk was about 12 and a half miles long.

Councillor Qadar Zada, Dudley Council's cabinet member for adult social care, said: "The reality is that these cuts are not the cuts of the council, they are the cuts of central government. It is a Conservative Government which is cutting funding at unprecedented levels to all councils."

"I feel so passionately about this and about Age UK that I am going to write to the local MP Mike Wood, a Conservative, asking him to raise this in Government and I would encourage others to do the same."

You can donate to help Age UK Dudley's services by going to uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/Stepingout11

Train bosses promise to improve access for all

A TRAIN operator has assured disabled passengers it is doing all it can to make its services accessible to all – after almost a quarter said they were concerned they would experience difficulties while travelling.

London Midland's research found that 24 per cent of disabled passengers believed their journey with them would not be easy. The company, which runs services across the Black Country, has now launched a campaign to show passengers the changes that have been made to make travel easier for disabled people.

Head of corporate affairs, Francis Thomas, said: "London Midland is working really hard to make train travel as simple and easy as possible for all our customers. Seventy-five per cent of our stations are now step free. If you are using a station where we haven't yet been able to make those modifications we will make arrangements to get you to a station where it is easier for you, at our expense."

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Old Bull's Head proves a re-ale popular pub

CHEERS! A pub which goes above and beyond for its punters is celebrating success after being crowned the Express & Star's Dudley pub of the year.

The Old Bull's Head Inn on Redhall Road, Lower Gornal, was the overwhelming favourite to take the top honour, after 1,502 tokens were collected – more than three times its nearest rival.

Delighted with the accolade from The Chronicle's sister newspaper, licensee Lyndsey Morris said: "We couldn't believe it, and the customers were ecstatic. We are a community pub, and see the same people come in from Gornal.

"Everybody knows everybody and we know all of the customers by their first name." Lyndsey who has past experience in the pub industry took over The Old Bull's Head 18 months ago when it underwent extensive refurbishment. She lives above and runs the pub alongside her partner Les Bullock, also 41, along with a small team.

Not only can visitors enjoy the pub's community atmosphere, but also enjoy a tour of the Black Country Ales brewery behind where their own toffee-flavoured real ale Fire-side is produced.

This continues the long-running tradition of brewing at the site, which dates back to 1834 when Edward Guest, a butcher by trade, started it up as a sideline for customers.

Fittingly, among the other favourite tipplers available at the bar is Pig on the Wall, a coffee-flavoured brew, as well as the sweet and honey-like BFG. The pub also puts on regular live entertainment and has function rooms available for events.

However, Lyndsey doesn't need a booked party as a reason to put on one of her famous buffets. She has created 'Cheesy Tuesdays' when she arranges a spread of English cheeses, pork pies, chutneys and more for visitors to savour."

The pub has also received praise from the director of Black Country Ales, Angus McMeeking, who said: "I want to say thank you to Lyndsey and her team for their hard work, to our brewer Robin Shields who brews the real ale at the pub, and for all of our customers."

Andy Maxwell, circulation sales manager at Express & Star, said: "We had dozens of pubs nominated and it has been terrific to see so many customers get involved by voting for their favourite."



The Old Bull's Head Inn landlady Lyndsey Morris shows the prize to regulars at the Lower Gornal pub

Lorry driver fined more than £5k for not taking breaks

A LORRY driver has been fined more than £5,000 after breaching regulations by driving without breaks.

Paul Kevin Garner, 64, had been trading as Narfriight UK in Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank, and was driving an HGV when he was subject to a roadside check on Bean Road in Dudley on April 19.

Checks of his digital tachograph card, which record driver's hours, revealed that on multiple occasions he had driven for more than four and a half hours without a minimum break of 45 minutes, contrary to the Transport Act 1986.

When Garner didn't turn up to his trial at Sandwell Magistrates Court last week, despite having sent a not guilty plea by post, seven charges of this Transport Act offence were proved in his absence and he was fined a total of £5,390.

Prosecutor Miss Olivia Maginn provided a summary of the case against Garner, including details of the check that had revealed his breach. On April 19 Garner was pulled over in a goods vehicle with a maximum weight of 7,500kg.

He was asked to produce his digital tachograph driver card. EC Regulations state that during or after four and a half hours of driving, the driver must observe a break of no less than 45 minutes. Garner's card revealed that instead on seven different days he had driven over four and a half hours, and in some cases for over six hours, with his longest qualifying break being just 23 minutes.

Garner was ordered to pay £711 costs and a £77 victim surcharge.

Hopes over funds for scheme to bust queues

HIGHWAYS bosses say they are hopeful a multi-million scheme to tackle congestion at a busy roundabout will be 'at the top of the queue' when funding to roads projects is allocated.

Sandwell Council chiefs admit they are facing a waiting game over a proposed transformation of the Birchley Island in Oldbury, a notorious Black Country bottleneck.

A preferred option for the island, known as the 'hamburger' scheme which would see it be split in two to allow traffic to run through the centre of it, was approved by planners last year.

A business case will now be submitted to the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in the hope of funding.

Regeneration boss Councillor Paul Moore told the latest meeting of the authority's cabinet: "A major business case will be submitted to the LEP and ultimately the combined authority.

By Richard Guttridge

is also on a major route in Birmingham.

If and when the work begins, it is expected to take two years to complete.

Birchley Island is used by around 92,000 drivers a day. Queues regularly build up during rush hour, particularly on the Birmingham New Road side heading towards the M5.

An overhaul of the roundabout has been backed by regular users – with 83 per cent of the public, motorists and businesses in favour of the congestion-busting proposal.

Under the plans, details of which were first revealed more than two years ago, Wolverhampton Road will be reconstructed so it passes through the current island in both directions next to the electricity sub-station.

There will also be four lanes from junction two of the M5 to and from Birchley Island and traffic signals will be installed along the Churchbridge approach.

Ale fair phoenix logo

THE logo for the 31st Dudley Winter Ales Fair is to be a phoenix rising from the ashes.

More volunteers will still be needed to help at the real ale festival, which was recently saved from cancellation.

The Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale is now busy preparing for the three-day event in Dudley Town Hall from November 24 to 26.

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Tunnel is part of six town trek

INTREPID runners and walkers are being urged to put their best foot forward and sign up for Sandwell's popular Six Towns Challenge – including a trek through Netherton Tunnel.

A team of 25 volunteers from Sandwell Ramblers, together with Sandwell Council and Mytime Active, are organising the challenge on Sunday, August 28. A 26-mile route takes in each of the borough's six towns and the world-famous 1.7 mile tunnel. It is unfit so they will need to bring torches.

There are also 14 and 18-mile routes as well as the free, five-mile guided Sandwell Stride Jamboree walk.

Contact Kate Kirkpatrick on 0121 569 3064.

Saltwells gets a makeover

VOLUNTEERS have this summer helped to transform a nature reserve that was damaged by flash floods.

A team from The Conservation Volunteers have been working at Saltwells Nature Reserve, between Netherton and Brierley Hill, clearing rubbish weeds and overgrown plants.

The project was funded by Intu, which owns the nearby Merry Hill shopping centre.

FOCUS ON NETHERTON AREA

Donald's glorious garden is a refuge from worries

FOR proud Netherton pensioner Donald Hall his garden is his pride and joy – and he says it has helped him in his fight against cancer.

Over the years Donald and his wife Barbara have won numerous awards for the beauty of their Black Country oasis.

The 77-year-old, who has been twice diagnosed with cancer but is now in remission, says that tending to the plants at his Netherton home has been therapeutic for him.

By Jamie Brassington

He spends nearly all his days every summer with his wife Barbara, 75, keeping their glorious garden blossoming.

"It is therapeutic for him," said Mrs Hall, herself a former florist. "With all his problems it keeps his mind occupied."

Awards

The pair had won gold and silver awards from the Bunches and Bows flower shop in Dudley, when it previously held gardening competitions.

Although that contest no longer runs, the couple still work on their garden every summer to make it as beautiful as possible.

The rear garden is packed with plants and flowers of all shapes, sizes and colour

that are cared for with love and dedication.

Among the flowers are marigolds and begonias, but Donald says his favourite is the purple-coloured hydrangea.

The couple began spending more time working on their garden after Mr Hall's first cancer diagnosis in 2005.

He was dealt a further blow when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2008.

Most recently he had an ulcer removed from his head.

But Donald and Barbara's special garden remains their oasis from health worries

"It is the best it has ever been," said Donald. "I do it for the love of gardening."



Cancer survivor Donald Hall, aged 77, tending flowers in his garden which he maintains with help from wife Barbara

Group hold auditions for musical

THE Young Ones, who perform at Netherton Arts Centre, were originally a youth based pantomime company but are now re-launching themselves as a musical theatre group.

Spokesperson for the group, Audee Henwood said: "We felt there are too many pantomime groups across the West Midlands now and so we decided to try musical theatre with our young members instead."

Subsequently, they are seeking performers aged between 10 to 20 years old who would like to take part in Disney's High School Musical; in February 2017. There are auditions on August 24 and the rehearsals begin in September. Contact Chris on (01384) 895266.

Free activity day in park

FREE activity days will be put on for youngsters at Netherton Park, as well as Brierley Hill.

The Summer Fun Play Days are to be held on September 1 at Brierley Hill's Moor Centre and September 2 at Netherton Park (from Northfield Road entrance), and will include games, sandpits, storytelling, leisure activities, face painting and much more.

The events will be running from 11am to 3pm on both days.

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Spielberg will shoot in Brum

STEVEN Spielberg's latest blockbuster is being filmed in the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham.

The world's leading film director will be coming to the West Midlands next month to shoot the futuristic 'Ready Player One.'

The film, set in 2044, has an impressive cast including Oscar winner Mark Rylance and Shaun of the Dead star Simon Pegg, who used to busk in Birmingham while studying at Stratford-Upon-Avon.

Ben Mendelsohn and T J Miller have also been cast for the Warner Brothers movie, which is scheduled to be released in 2018.

Shooting will start on September 5 but set designers, technicians and special effects crew will start preparations this month.

Letters have been sent out to Hockley businesses and residents advising of the week-long shooting schedule, which is due to last a week.

Speed cameras likely to make a comeback on busy routes

AVERAGE speed cameras could be installed on main roads in Dudley as highways bosses look to clamp down on speeding drivers.

Council chiefs said they were considering the move in a bid to slow down motorists.

Speed cameras in the Black Country were switched off in 2013 as they were costing too much to run. But motorists have been warned working cameras could soon make a return.

It comes as new average speed cameras went live across Birmingham this month in a joint project between Birmingham City Council and the police.

Dudley Council's highways boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We are always reviewing what we do with our speed cameras, which include a mix of static cameras alongside other traffic calming measures and education work."

"We are currently looking at the possibility of introducing new average speed cameras on major routes where speeding is an issue, alongside other speed reduction measures, and look forward to seeing the results of the trial being undertaken by Solihull and Birmingham Councils and West Midlands Police."

Roads bosses have been keen to bring speeds down on major routes including Birmingham New Road and the Black Country Route. Dudley North MP Ian Austin raised concerns

about safety on Birmingham New Road earlier this month.

Councillor Ken Finch has campaigned for action to tackle speeding on the route and believes speed cameras are the only measure that will make drivers slow down.

He said: "We have got to do something otherwise there is going to be a major accident."

Eight new digital cameras, which will detect vehicles via Automatic Number Plate Recognition, have been introduced in Birmingham.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said that working speed cameras would only return to the Black Country if councils put up the money to install them – about £30,000 for each camera.

Santa is on his way to the zoo

IT may be summer but Dudley Zoo has taken its first booking for its Santa's grotto at the castle.

The Santa's Winter Wonderland Grotto opens on December 1 and runs until Christmas Eve.

The zoo's marketing manager, Andrea Hales, said: "We had a record-breaking year last year, with more than 12,000 visitors calling on site to see Santa Claus in the run-up to Christmas."

"We've only just started to advertise this year's festive event and are delighted we're already starting to get inquiries."

A family ticket, for two adults and two children is priced £32. Tickets, which must be pre-booked at least 24-hours in advance, include zoo admission, a visit to Santa in his grotto and a gift for children.

Skills hub is forging ahead



At the site are, from left, Trevor Ayre, of the Institute of Cast Metal Engineers, Professor Ian Oaks, vice-chancellor Wolverhampton University, Martin Dudley from Thomas Dudley and Ninder Johal, of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership

WORK is about to begin on a new jobs-boosting manufacturing skills centre in the Black Country.

Bosses gathered for the start of demolition work at the Dudley Port site where a hub teaching foundry and pattern-making skills is due to be built. It will be an arm of a new £12 million Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills (ECMS) in Wolverhampton, with training hubs in West Bromwich and Dudley.

Students at Dudley Port will have access to industrial facilities at the Thomas Dudley foundry on the same site.

The aim of the training centres, made possible by £8m investment from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, is to improve productivity in the high-value manufacturing sector. They are also designed to bring together business partners

and education providers. These include Dudley College, the Confederation of British Metalforming, Cast Metals Federation and the Institute of Cast Metals Engineers, who are investing the other £4m.

Led by the University of Wolverhampton, the project will collectively provide specialist training in toolmaking, foundry skills, pattern-making, metalforming, forging, manufacturing management and leadership and project management.

Professor Ian Oaks, the university's deputy vice chancellor, said: "Following extensive consultation with businesses across the Black Country, it's clear that the region is lacking the skills that underpin high-value manufacturing performance, productivity and growth. This is a key strategic project in linking employers, further education and higher education in the Black Country."

Family escape from severe house blaze

A FAMILY escaped a house blaze which gutted a front downstairs room of their home.

The two adults and four children in the house on Hilary Crescent, Woodseton, in Dudley, were uninjured following the incident just after 10.30pm on August 8.

Four firefighters from Dudley and Tipton crews attended the scene.

Matthew Smith, West Midlands Fire Service spokesman, said: "We received a 999 call to a house fire in Woodseton. It was a severe fire in a ground floor front room of a two-storey semi-detached property."

"The fire was confined to the room but left it gutted. Smoke logging affected 90 per cent of the property."

One person was treated for smoke inhalation and everyone else was checked over at the scene.

The ground floor windows of the property have been boarded up due to the fire.

Characters at museum

THERE is still time for young visitors to the Black Country Living Museum to discover the power of the pen this summer. The attraction is bringing stories to life until September 4.

A trail will bring storybook scenes to life and visitors will be able to look out for Peter Rabbit, Little Red Riding Hood and others.

Street games based on characters in Roald Dahl's bookswill include 'pass the snozzycumber'. People are also urged to dress up as their favourite characters.

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Self-contained modern art display visits town



Artist Shaheen Ahmed with her work Zouaves Standing and Melanie Tomlinson's art work entitled Writing Desk



'Strong Rooms' art installation in Dudley

ARTISTS and archivists united to create a unique installation in Dudley town centre.

Led by renowned Birmingham-raised street artist Mohammed Ali MBE, 'Strong Rooms' is an art display that has seen two shipping containers transformed inside and out with contemporary art inspired by the area's past.

Ali, also known as Aerosol Arabic, combined his talents with those of fellow West Midlands-based artists Melanie Tomlinson, Anand Chhabra and Shaheen Ahmed, to turn the 20ft

shipping containers into an art installation in Dudley town centre earlier this month complete with information for visitors and activities for children.

The artists were inspired by Dudley Archives' records on the bravery of Dorothea Feilding, an aristocrat turned Western Front nurse, with her letters home forming a moving artwork by Melanie Tomlinson centred around a desk.

The artists also worked with students at Dudley College to research the history of Feilding and other notable figures, including women chainmakers' strike leader Mary Macarthur.

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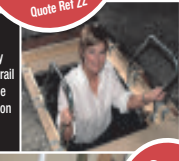
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Zombie knife ban comes into force to stop horror weapons

A BAN on horrifying zombie knives comes into force this week with those guilty of buying, selling, or making the lethal blades facing up to four years in jail.

It marks a victory for the Express & Star, The Chronicle's sister newspaper, which first exposed how these fearsome weapons could be bought legally.

The knives have cutting blades of up to 25 inches and serrated edges. They also come with names such as 'head splitter' and 'decapitator'.

While advertised as ornaments and collectors' items, the weapons were being purchased legally by criminal gangs.

Home Office minister Sarah Newton said: "This Government will act wherever necessary to cut crime and keep our communities safe. Zombie killer knives glamorise violence and cause devastating damage – they have no place whatsoever in our society. We committed to banning the sale, manufacture and importation of these dangerous weapons. We are delivering on our commitment. Anyone caught making or selling zombie knives now faces up to four years in prison."

The law was changed last month and the punishment became enforceable from Monday.

It follows a year long campaign by the Express & Star and West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson to get the weapons banned.

West Midlands Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner Ashley Bertie said: "The Express & Star got the ball rolling on this issue and have played a key part in this change in the law."



Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner Ashley Bertie with a zombie knife, now subject to a ban

Waste plant at quarry gets the green light

A HUGE waste plant will be built at a disused quarry in the Black Country after the plans were given the go-ahead by council bosses.

The plant will be created at the Edwin Richards Quarry in Rowley Regis and marks the first phase of a major redevelopment vision, which would eventually see 300 homes built on the site.

FCC Environment is overseeing a 30-year plan to fill in the quarry and build 281 homes on its southern edge.

The first step will be the creation of the waste management facility, which will treat 150,000 tonnes of soil every year.

The quarry has been used for landfill in recent years for household waste. This will be removed and replaced with soil and non-hazardous materials.

FCC Environment said the development would regenerate the site. Sandwell environment chiefs are also keen for action over the dormant quarry.

Some 6,000 tons of materials would be driven to the site every week. A gas utilisation plant and a waste vehicle depot would also be built.

Target is smashed by Green Shoots Plus

NEARLY 300 jobs have been created thanks to £4 million worth of grants handed out to businesses as part of a pioneering Express & Star scheme.

The Green Shoots Plus initiative has given the green light to £3,908,539 in grants to more than 50 companies in the Black Country, Staffordshire, Shropshire, and Herefordshire which has generated a huge £9.2m in private sector investment.

A total of 278 jobs have been created and 110 jobs protected, smashing the targets of the scheme set one year ago.

The funding is provided by the Government's Regional Growth Fund and distributed through the Express & Star (sister newspaper to The Chronicle), the University of Wolverhampton and a panel of business experts.

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson said: "I think the Express & Star and the University of Wolverhampton's Green Shoots Plus scheme is a wonderful example of the public sector and the private sector working hand in hand to make a difference."

Achieved

"It is amazing what has been achieved in such a small space of time and the results are incredible."

"It is a scheme that has given businesses the ability to invest, grow, win new contracts, and take on new staff."

The grants, which cover up to 30 per cent of an overall project cost.

Officers to wear the rainbow with pride

POLICE in the West Midlands are to use rainbow-coloured lanyards to show their support of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community.

The move is part of an initiative by the force to increase equality.

More than 500 officers and staff have signed up to a scheme, called Allies, in the past eight weeks.

Allies are those who do not identify as LGBT but believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people should experience full equality in the workplace.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "Allies are role models who create truly inclusive workplaces and send a strong message to the wider community. Some of the world's most successful organisations have introduced similar schemes."

"I have funded the purchase of lanyards in the colours of the rainbow – the worldwide symbol of LGBT pride."



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Soul stirring singer and pop Blossoms

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

MERCURY Prize nominated no1 album Love & Hate will establish London soul singer Michael Kiwanuka as a major force.

This sprawling soul opus is given a brilliant atmospheric production by Danger Mouse, Inlo and Paul Butler. The husky-voiced Kiwanuka harks back to the days of Bill Withers and Gil Scott-Heron, especially on the protest soul of Black Man In A White World.

Other highlights include the melancholy I'll Never Love, heart-felt Father's Child and the hazy slowburning Place I Belong.

Kiwanuka is in concert at the O2 Institute in Birmingham on October 21.

Latest indie pop sensations Stockport's Blossoms impress with a chart-topping self-titled debut packing plenty of hit-worthy songs, including the summery Charlemagne and Blondie-like At Most A Kiss.

Fronted by guitarist and singer Tom Ogden but with Myle Kellock's keyboards often in the forefront, the band lack the hard edge of kindred spirits Peace and the 1975 but deserve a place on any indie mix with tracks like Texia. They have My Favourite Room and Blow Draft recalls Merseyside's The Coral, whose James Skelly co-produces. Maybe the National Trust will adopt them after Blown Rose pays tribute to the stately homes of England.

Blossoms play the O2 Institute in Birmingham on September 23.

Singer and songwriter Ed Harcourt enlists Foals and PJ Harvey producer Flood to finesse his potent seventh album Furnaces. His most abrasive work to date, almost grunge-like in



Michael Kiwanuka – soul singer's second album is a major success

places, Furnaces finds Harcourt taking a look at the darkside. This ranges from the haunted apocalyptic visions of The World Is On Fire, via the beast in man of Loup Garou and the excesses celebrated by Dionysus. By album closer Antarctica the protagonist is considering a trip to the frozen continent in order to escape mankind.

Bear's Den are now a duo, Andrew Davie and Kev Jones, following the departure of guitarist Joey Haynes after the acclaimed 2014 debut Islands. On Red Earth & Pouring Rain their sound moves away from its folk-rock roots and more towards smooth 70s and 80s FM rock, akin to Fleetwood Mac and Deacon Blue. See them in action at Birmingham's O2 Institute on November 2.

Irish singer-songwriter Lisa Hannigan's sweet, lilting vocals come from the folk tradition but are given a haunting modern gothic quality on **At Swim**, a part collaboration with The National's Aaron Dessner. In fact, opener Fall could appeal to Lana Del Rey fans. Prayer For The Dying is suitably mournful, while Undertow and Barton makes subtle effective use of electronic effects. The gorgeous a cappella song Anahorish was inspired the writings of Irish poet Seamus Heaney.

Lisa Hannigan plays Birmingham's Glee Club on October 25.

Packing lots of nuggets from rare vinyl, plus a few half-forgotten hits, various artists 48-trak 3 CD set **I'm A Freak, Baby** is a treat for fans of obscure psych and prog rock. Homing in on the underground British rock scene of the late 1960s and early 70s, it captures the era when hippy pop-rock was morphing into something heavier.

Highlights include The Pink Fairies with Do It, The Groundhogs' Cherry Red, obscure biker band Wicked Lady with the frenetic I'm A Freak, sought-after rock rarity Zero Time from Dark, Brum outfit Velvet Fogg with Yellow Cave Woman and influential hit Race With The Devil by The Gun. There are also tracks from when Brum rockers The Move featured both Roy Wood and Jeff Lynne, a young Lemmy as part of Sam Gopal's band on Escalator, The Yardbirds with Jimmy Page on guitar for Think About It, also Deep Purple and Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac.

If you want to find out from where Air and Daft Punk get their inspiration from, then pick up various artists album **Cosmic Machine The Sequel**, a second collection of rare electronic tracks from the 1970s and 80s French scene. Highlights include the lovely Moonshine by Stereo, Francis Lai's funky Young Freedom, Queen Samantha's soaring disco monster Take A Chance and even that old nugget Pop Corn gets an overhaul.

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Adults £14.00 O.A.P £13.00 Child £12.00

Tuesday 23rd August
ST ANNES ON SEA

Adults £17.00 O.A.P £16.00 Child £14.00

Saturday 27th August
LLANDUDNO

Adults £17.00 O.A.P £16.00 Child £14.00

BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 29th August
SOUTHPORT

Adults £17.00 O.A.P £16.00 Child £14.00

Tuesday 30th August
COTSWOLD MARKET & BOURTON ON THE WATER

Adults £15.00 O.A.P £14.00 Child £12.00

Saturday 3rd September
WESTON S. MARE

Adults £17.00 O.A.P £16.00 Child £14.00

BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS

Saturdays 17th September & also 1st October
Start from 8am Ret from Blackpool 9pm
This does not include a tour of the lights by coach
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Friday 14th October to Monday 17th October
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Novacrow



Tomorrow, 7pm
Slade Rooms, W'ton
Liverpool-based heavy rockers who recently released debut EP Black Syrup. It's a return to their home town for feisty frontwoman Kitty Staunton and guitarist Jonny. Four support bands. See www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Mr BEN



Tonight,
The Jam House, B'ham
This well-loved covers band span a variety of genres to bring a tight and explosive set to anyone who fancies a good-old-fashioned night out. Expect to hear a host of top tunes. Visit www.thejamhouse.com

The Pretty Things



Thursday, 7.30pm
Robin 2, Bilston
1960s psychedelic rockers who inspired David Bowie among others, featuring original members; singer Phil May and Rolling Stones co-founder guitarist Dick Taylor. Visit www.therobin.co.uk

Grease



Today and tomorrow, various
New Alex Theatre, B'ham
Grab your leather jackets, throw your mittens around your kittens and away you go! Get ready to hand-jive, it's the The No1 greatest musical Grease. Visit www.birminghamtheatres.com/newalexandra.htm

POP

Akamba Presents – The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute (Mitchell Joseph Thompson)
Tonight,
Akamba Garden Centre, Shirley, Solihull, B90 1PH.
Call 0121 733 3111

Iconic 80s
Tomorrow, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661

CLUBBING

Propaganda
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB
Call 0121 622 8250

ROCK & METAL

Mr BEN
Tonight,
The Jam House, Birmingham, B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Bon Giovi – The International Tribute to Bon Jovi (LS)
Tonight, £12 - £16
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ
Call 01902 401211

Definitely Mightbe
Tonight at 7.30pm, £10
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Mad 4 Brit
Tonight, £6 - £7
The Roadhouse, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Nirvana UK
Tomorrow, £6 - £7
The Roadhouse, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Ovation presents NOVACROW
Tomorrow,
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Surf's Up
Tonight, £13.50 - £15
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate, Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

FOLK

Fotheringay
Tonight, £20
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate, Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Traditional Irish Music
Mon,
The Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Folk & Roots Club
Thursday, Free
The Roadhouse, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

FESTIVALS

V Festival
Today - Sunday,
Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, TF11 8LE.
Call 01952 852100

Selly Oak Fake Festival
Tomorrow at 12.30pm - 11.45pm, £11 - £53
Selly Oak Park, Birmingham, B29 6PG.
See www.fakefestivals.co.uk

RNB, BLUES, JAZZ, MOTOWN & SOUL

Akamba Presents The BroomBusters – RnB, ska, reggae, rock n roll
Tomorrow,
Akamba Garden Centre, Shirley, Solihull, B90 1PH.
Call 0121 733 3111

Steam & Jazz Train
Tomorrow, £18 - £20
Llangollen Railway, The Station, LL20 8SN.
Call 01978 860979

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
The Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

CLASSICAL

Organ Proms
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Oakhill, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 5JZ.
Call 07967 806 409

Stourport Choral Society
Wed,
Arey Kings Village Hall, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

COMEDY

Upfront Comedy's Summer Jam
Tomorrow,
MAC, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

King Kong Comedy Club
Thu at 8pm, Free
Gunmakers Arms Pub, Birmingham, B4 6HG.
Call 0121 236 8486

One Show More
Tomorrow - Thu, Free - £16
Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke-on-Trent. ST4 2RR.
Call 01782 233222

THEATRE

Stepping Out
Tomorrow - Sun, £5 - £10
Aston University, Birmingham, B4 7ET.
Call 0121 204 3000

As You Like It – Outdoor theatre
Sun,
Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, SY4 4TW.
Call 01743 708123

Grease
Tonight, tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Theatre Tour
Tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Glenn Miller Story
Tue - Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Chicken Chase
Thu, £2
Ludlow Assembly Rooms, SY8 1AZ.
Call 01584 878141

Dotty the Dragon
Thu,
Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster, DY11 7XZ.
Call 01299 251890

MISC. EVENTS

Victorian Summer of Fun
Tomorrow - Thu,
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DQ.
Call 01952 433 424

Launching Innovative Future Technologies (LIFT)
Today,
iCentrum, Innovation Birmingham Campus, B7 4BP.
Call 01212 503517

The Big Read: Beatfrecks
Tomorrow,
Soho House, Birmingham, B18 5LB.
Call 0121 554 9122

Newcomen Engine in steam
Tomorrow - Sun,
The Black Country Living Museum, DY1 4SQ.
Call 01215 579643

Meccano Event
Tomorrow - Sun,
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DQ. Call 01952 433 424

Family activities at Kitchen Garden Cafe
Mon - Tue,
The Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham, B14 7SA.
Call 0121 443 4725

Whyley Dance
Tue,
Arey Kings Village Hall, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

The Crunch roadshow & tortilla making
Tue,
Sarehole Mill, Birmingham, B13 0BD. Call 0121 348 8160

Summer Skool – Learn to be a Mad Scientist
Tue,
Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster, DY11 7XZ. Call 01299 251890

Historical Talk Series. Louise Deakin – Key Hill Cemetery and Warstone Lane Cemetery
Tue,
Gunmakers Arms pub, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 8486

Chance to Dance
Thu,
Arey Kings Village Hall, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Howard Robinson presents: Oliver Cromwell and The Battle of Worcester
Thu, £5
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate, Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Holiday Wildlife Club – Predator V Prey (five to seven years)
Today, £12 to £14
Sandwell Valley Nature Reserve, West Bromwich, B43 5AG.
Call 0121 357 7395

GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

Spotlight Tour
Today, Free
Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Art Explorer Friday
Today - Sun,
Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

Fortnightly knitting and crochet group
Sun,
Longton Library, Sutherland Institute, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 4HY.
Call 01782 238424

Cathie's Sewing Bee
Mitchell Arts Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 4HG.
Call 01782 409307

Stoked-on-Tech: Make your own pinhole camera
Today
Mitchell Arts Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 4HG.
Call 01782 409307

Saturday Guided Tours
Tomorrow, £3
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Make A Super Hero Mask
Tomorrow,
Creative Coffee Hub, Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215727300

Identification Day with Henry Sandon MBE
Tomorrow, £3
Museum of Royal Worcester, WR1 2ND.
See www.museumofroyalworcester.org

Sunday Guided Tours
Sun, £3
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Textiles: Cushion Cover Designs
Sun
MAC, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232
10th September 2016. Thai Street Food with Chorchaba Harper. Fully Booked. Places available 3rd Aug, 21st Aug and 7th Sept.

Paper Bracelet Making
Sun,
Creative Coffee Hub, Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215727300

Summer Holiday Tile Decorating Workshops
Today, £5
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DQ.
Call 01952 433 424,

Rainbows
Wed,
Arey Kings Village Hall, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Family Craft Activity: Crafty Castles
Wed, £1
Aston Hall, Birmingham, B6 6JD.
Call 0121 675 4722

The Good, The Bad and The Yucky
Wed, £1
Aston Hall, Birmingham, B6 6JD.
Call 0121 675 4722

WackyWednesdays
Wed, £2
Erasmus Darwin House, Lichfield, WS13 7AD.
Call 01543 306260

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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Galaxy of top pop stars take off to V

SOME of the biggest names in rock and pop will take the stage when Weston Park hosts this year's V Festival.

The grounds of the stately home near Wolverhampton will host performances from some of the biggest global names in music this weekend.

Justin Bieber and Rihanna will be the headline acts for 90,000 music fans on Saturday and Sunday at Weston Park, with Sia and David Guetta playing a supporting role.

V will also feature big name artists on its MTV Stage, including perennial festival favourites Faithless and Kaiser Chiefs, as well as Tinie Tempah and Jake Bugg.

There will also be two further stages, the Dance Arena Stage featuring headliners DJ Ez and Craig David's TS5.

Comedy

The V Street Stage will feature headline sets from The Sugarhill Gang and fellow 1980s R&B stars Soul II Soul with support slots from Anne-Marie and Birmingham's Laura Mvula.

Comedy will play a big part at the event at the Glee Comedy Tent. Australian Adam Hills will lead the way and there will also be sets from Katherine Ryan, Sara Pascoe and Bill Bailey.

The BBC Radio One Summer of Dance Stage will feature Annie Mac and Gorgon City.

V Festival was Britain's first ever simultaneous twin-site, multi-day festival and visitors will be able to stay in style in a Podpad Village. New to V



Are you a Belieber.... Justin Bieber tops the bill at the V Festival this weekend

Festival 2016 is Pink Moon Camping, which offer pre-pitched tents for two, four, six or eight people, or a two-man rainbow tipi.

V Festival was launched in 1996 when Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker said he would like to play two outdoor venues in successive days. His

promoters came up with the idea of V, originally held in Warrington and Chelmsford. It subsequently relocated to Leeds before settling at Weston Park, in 1999.

Weston Park and Hylands Park, Chelmsford, have continued to host the event for the past 16 years.

Grease is the word at Alex

MORE than 100 local actors will feature in a special production of Grease The Musical at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre, which started last night (Wednesday) and continues until Friday night (August 20).

The annual Stage Experience production for 2016 features all of the iconic songs from the adored 1978 film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton John, including Grease Lightnin', We Go Together and You're The One That I Want.

Venue spokesman Matthew Breen said: "Dazzling choreography, stunning costumes and set pieces will light up the New Alex stage."

The theatre's Stage Experience production will see a cast of more than 100 local nine to 24-year-olds mount a full-scale production of the much-loved musical in just two weeks.

Having auditioned in May, actors spent a fortnight being put through their paces, learning intense choreography and dance routines, as well as their lines. However, it's not just those in the spotlight who get the opportunity to shine as young people with an interest in the backstage elements turn their hands to operating lighting, sound and scene changes.

Stage Experience producer Becky Charles said: "Audiences have always been thoroughly surprised and impressed by the quality of previous productions and commitment from the cast."

Playing love birds Danny and Sandy are Jordan Ricketts, 18, from Telford, and Georgia Anderson, 20, pictured left.

To keep up to date with the latest news and find out how to audition for next year's production of West Side Story, visit facebook.com/stageexperiencebirmingham



'Audiences have always been impressed'

Poppies are back with new line-up

REFORMED Stourbridge rockers Pop Will Eat Itself will play their only Midlands show of the year when they line up at Bilston's Robin 2 on October 2.

Pop Will Eat Itself v2.0 are Graham Crabb (original drummer, later co-frontman/vocalist & main songwriter), Mary Byker (Gaye Bykers On Acid, Apollo 440, Pigface), Tim Muddiman (Gary Numan & his own band The Strange), Jason Bowld (Bullet For My Valentine, Killing Joke, Pitchshifter) and Davey Bennett (This Burning Age). This line-up was formed in 2011 and last year released second album Anti Nasty League. See www.therobin.co.uk for details.

Spandau star will talk about his life

NEW Romantic pop star turned actor, TV and radio presenter Martin Kemp will be discussing his life and answering fans' questions at Stourbridge Town Hall this autumn.

The 54-year-old found fame with his brother Gary in flamboyant pop group Spandau Ballet in the 1980s, before starring with his brother in 1990 hit movie The Krays.

The Londoner went on to play EastEnders villain Steve Owen and has recently hosted shows on BBC Radio 2.

Tickets for the event, on Friday October 28, cost £20. Call 01384 812 812 or see www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment

Elkie and Gilbert take to the stage

TICKETS have gone on sale for two shows in Birmingham next year featuring singers who found fame in the 1970s.

Birmingham Town Hall will host Elkie Brooks on February 18 and singer-songwriter Gilbert O'Sullivan on March 6.

Elkie, now 71, is best-known for the hits Pearl's A Singer, Lilac Wine, Sunshine After The Rain, Fool (If You Think It's Over), Don't Cry Out Loud and No More The Fool. Brooks' 20th studio album, Powerless, was released in 2010. O'Sullivan had chart-toppers with Clair and Get Down and last year released Latin al la G, inspired by Peggy Lee. See www.thsh.co.uk

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SPECIAL NIGHTS



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£6.95



Wednesday

THE BURGER CLUB
Handmade 6oz Burgers Served with different sauces and accompaniments From 5 pm

£6.95



Thursday

CURRY NIGHT
Order any Curry and get a Pint of Carlsberg or Tetleys for just

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CHOICE



Hugh Grant

There's Something About Romcoms

(Channel 4, 9pm)

Meg Ryan, Hugh Grant, Richard Curtis, Rupert Everett and Stephen Merchant are among the stars celebrating the rich and varied history of the rom-com, which has made stars of the likes Renee Zellweger and Kate Hudson, among many more of Hollywood's brightest stars. This programme revisits some of the greatest rom-coms moments ever committed to film, from Meg Ryan 'climactic' scene in when Harry Met Sally to Andie MacDowell and Hugh Grant's romantic entanglements in Four Weddings and a Funeral. Tim Bevan, chairman of the production company Working Title, explains why he believes the British have surpassed American film-makers in the field of the romantic comedy.

BBC1

6.00 Olympic Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen. **11.30** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.45** Olympics 2016. Hazel Irvine presents live coverage from Rio on the 15th and penultimate day of the Games. **5.30** BBC News. **5.40** Regional Programme. **5.50** Olympics 2016. Clare Balding introduces the latest live coverage on day 15, with three live boxing finals from Rio and the men's 10m platform diving final at the Maria Lenk Aquatics Centre.

10.20 BBC News; Weather. **10.40 Match of the Day**. Highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Leicester City v Arsenal at King Power Stadium, and Burnley v Liverpool at Turf Moor. The Foxes were appearing at home for the first time as reigning champions, and will have hoped to perform better than they did when hosting the Gunners last season, when they fell to a 5-2 defeat. Meanwhile, The Clarets played their first home game since returning to the top flight since winning the Championship last term, and were looking to register a first Premier League win over Liverpool, having previously lost all four encounters. Plus, action from Stoke City v Manchester City, Swansea City v Hull City, Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace, Watford v Chelsea, West Bromwich Albion v Everton, and Manchester United v Southampton from Friday night; National Lottery Update.

12.10 Olympics 2016. Jason Mohammad presents as the 15th and penultimate day of the Games draws to a close. Various athletics finals take place at the Olympic Stadium including the men's 5,000m at 01.30, which is expected to feature defending champion Mo Farah. The Brit has dominated the event in recent years, not only picking up Olympic gold on home soil but also winning three successive world titles since 2011. Before then, there is the women's high jump final at 00.30, the men's javelin final at 0.55, the men's 1500m final at 01.10 and the women's 800m final at 01.15, with the women's and men's 4x400m relay finals following the men's 5,000m at 02.00 and 02.35 respectively. The women's +67kg and men's +80kg taekwondo finals also take place at Carispa Arena 3 at 02.00 and 02.15, and the women's volleyball final starts at 02.15 at Maracanazinho. **4.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **4.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: Night Song, (1949) **7.55** Film: Whisky Galore! (1949) **9.15** Olympics: Rio Highlights 2016. Action from day 14 at the Olympic Games in Rio. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Flog It! (R) **3.00** Full Steam Ahead. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.30** Olympics 2016. Badminton and diving highlights on day 15. **5.50** The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R)

6.00 Gardeners' World. Horticultural ideas and advice. (R) **6.30** Dad's Army. Walmington-on-Sea leaves its mark on a visiting French general when the platoon repaints Lady Matthy's Rolls-Royce just in time for an official engagement. (R)

7.00 Proms Extra. Katie Derham looks at Rachmaninov, the John Wilson Orchestra performing Gershwin and visits the Proms event taking place at Shakespeare's Globe theatre.

7.40 BBC Proms 2016. Katie Derham presents as-live from the Royal Albert Hall as Valery Gergiev conducts the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra in three popular classics - Ravel's hypnotic Bolero, the ravishing suite from Richard Strauss's Der Rosenkavalier and Rachmaninov's romantic Piano Concerto No 3, featuring young pianist Behzod Abduraimov. Plus, Galina Ustvolskaya's searing Symphony No 3, subtitled Jesus Messiah, Save Us!, with text read by Alexei Petrenko.

9.40 Edinburgh Nights. Kirsty Wark talks to Booker prize-winning author James Kelman about his new novel, and meets playwrights and performers who are exploring themes of love relationships and fidelity.

10.10 The National Lottery Live. Sonali Shah presents live as the winning Lotto and Thunderball numbers are revealed. Plus, more from the Team GB athletes claiming medals at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

10.20 Olympics 2016. Clare Balding and Mark Chapman present the latest action on day 15 in Rio, including highlights of the men's modern pentathlon combined race and taekwondo quarter- and semi-finals.

12.10 Film: Infamous. (2006) **2.05** Film: Oslo, August 31st. (2011) **3.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Soaky. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** Film: Columbus: Identity Crisis. (1975) **1.25** ITV News; Weather. **1.35** River Monsters. (R) **2.00** The Chase. (R) **3.00** Doc Martin. (R) **4.05** Film: The Mummy Returns. (2001) Fantasy adventure.

6.20 Regional Programme; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather.

6.45 You've Been Framed! Gold. More comical mishaps submitted for approval by viewers, including a baby vomiting on a laptop, a boy's encounter with an explosive egg, and a dog that takes a shine to a teddy bear. (R)

7.15 Spottess. New series. Physical game show in which couples enter immaculate white rooms to complete fiendish wet paint-based games. However, the challenge here isn't to complete the task in record time, instead success rests on their ability to emerge from the ordeal clean and pristine. State-of-the-art 3D scanning technology and high-definition cameras are on hand to help determine whether the competitors have remained spotless enough to claim the cash prize.

8.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, in which contestants Petra Dunne, Sara Manchipp and Zechariah Hemans are challenged to "see it and say it". Last in the series.

9.00 Film: The Bourne Supremacy. (2004) The amnesiac assassin is living quietly in hiding, until his former employers come after him again and murder his girlfriend. A CIA operation has ended in disaster, and those responsible intend to clear their names by implicating Bourne. As the former secret agent tries to evade the hitmen on his trail, he also struggles to piece together the truth about his past. Action thriller sequel, starring Matt Damon.

11.00 ITV News; Weather. **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **12.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Grid. **6.40** Gillette World Sport. **7.05** Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.20** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** The Simpsons. (R) **1.15** The Simpsons. (R) **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. Coverage of the final day of the Ebor Festival at York, plus racing from Sandown Park. **4.30** Come Dine with Me. **5.00** Come Dine with Me. **5.35** Come Dine with Me. Franchise seller Justina is hoping to wow her guests in Preston with a vegan menu and performs reiki on her food to make sure she is in with a chance of winning the £1,000 prize.

6.05 Come Dine with Me. It is the final night in and around Preston and the turn of confident company conductor Anthony Smith, who is hoping for a winning mix of finger-licking food and fine dining.

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Film: Men in Black 3. (2012) An alien criminal escapes from a prison on the moon and goes back in time on a mission of revenge, changing the course of history. Agent K of the top-secret Earth defence organisation follows him back to 1969, and joins forces with a younger version of his mentor Agent K to set things right. Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith, Josh Brolin and Tommy Lee Jones.

9.00 There's Something About Romcoms. Hollywood stars shed light on the making of celebrated rom-coms, from When Harry Met Sally through to Four Weddings and a Funeral and the Bridget Jones films.

10.35 Film: Give It a Year. (2013) A couple marry after a whirlwind romance, but family and friends have doubts about the relationship. As their first anniversary approaches, they both begin to wonder if they are right for each other, especially when faced with more appealing alternative partners. Romantic comedy, with Rose Byrne, Rafe Spall, Anna Farris and Simon Baker.

12.30 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.20** Film: Call Girl. (2012) **3.45** Hollywoods. (R) **5.45** Superfoods: The Real Story. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.25** The Fairly OddParents. **9.00** The Saturday Show Live. **11.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. Callen, Sam and the team spring into action when fellow agent Dom activates a distress signal. They track down his car, which is riddled with bullet holes, and Eric intercepts a signal from his phone, tracing it to a house that contains nothing but some used medical supplies and a dead body. Crime drama, starring Chris O'Donnell and LL Cool J. (R)

7.00 NCIS Movie: Race Against Terror. Feature-length episode. Gibbs is injured in an explosion while conducting inquiries aboard a ship. He lapses into a coma, during which he has flashbacks of the past he has always kept hidden. Meanwhile, Tony takes over the investigation, but his approach begins to cause friction. (R)

8.50 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Sheffield Wednesday v Leeds United at Hillsborough, Birmingham City v Wolverhampton Wanderers at St Andrew's, and Bristol City v Newcastle United at Ashton Gate.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in the Leagues One and Two.

10.30 Celebrity Big Brother. Catching up with the celebrities as they react to Friday night's eviction, revealing how the latest departure has affected the remaining contestants.

11.30 V Festival 2016. The first of two live programmes offering viewers at home a chance to see the headline performance by Justin Bieber at the festivals in Chelmsford and Staffordshire.

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.15** Nick's Quest. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **1.00** Olympics 2016 **2.00** Britain on Film: Messing About in Boats **2.30** Sounds of the 70s **3.00** Acoustic at the BBC **3.55** Close **ITV2**

11.45 The X Factor: Top 10 Worst Auditions **12.45** Ninja Warrior UK **1.45** You've Been Framed: Gold: A Z 2.45 **Film**: Batteries Not Included (1987) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50** Film: Batteries Not Included (1987) **4.50** The X Factor: Top 10 OMG! Moments **5.55** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **9.00** Film: Hall Pass (2011) **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.35** The Cleveland Show **2.30** Mom **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 **2.45** Film: Calamity Jane (1953) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** Film: Calamity Jane (1953) **4.55** Foyle's War **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.05** Inspector Morse **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4 **1.00** Film: The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1967) **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15** Film: The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1967) **3.25** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **4.55** The Motorbike Show **6.00** World Series of Darts: Sydney **9.30** Storage Wars **10.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.00** Film: Child's Play 2 (1990) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Child's Play 2 (1990) **12.45** The Sweeney **1.45** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4 **11.00** Made in Chelsea: South of France **12.00** New Girl **12.30** The Goldbergs **2.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.30** Film: Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Die Hard (1988) **11.40** Gogglebox **1.20** RuDe Tube: Animal Madness **2.25** Broke Girls **3.05** Angie Tribeca **3.30** Gogglebox **4.10** The Mindy Project **4.50** Revenge

Film4 **11.00** Catch That Kid (2004) **1.00** Short Circuit 2 (1988) **3.20** Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009) **6.20** Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (2003) **9.00** The Purge (2013) **10.40** Cheap Thrills (2013) **12.20** In Fear (2013) **2.00** Donkey Punch (2008) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



Phoebe Waller-Bridge

Fleabag (BBC2, 10pm)
New series. Comedy, written by and starring Phoebe Waller-Bridge, based on her one-woman stage show about a woman wrestling with the demands of modern living through a mixture of bravado and casual sex. Fleabag struggles to make ends meet in the frenetic world of contemporary London as she tries to work out what she should be doing with her life. With Olivia Colman, Hugh Dennis, Ben Aldridge, Jamie Demetriou, Hugh Skinner, Sian Clifford, Sean Richards-Mulzac, Jenny Rainsford, Tree Waller-Bridge, Sarah Daykin, Bill Paterson and Jordan Long.

BBC1

6.00 Olympic Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.45** BBC News: Weather. **1.00** Olympics 2016. Live coverage from Rio on the 16th and final day. **5.00** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.30** Countryfile. **6.30** Olympics 2016. Further live coverage on day 16 in Rio, as the Games of the XXXI Olympiad draw to a close. Men's boxing takes centre stage at RioCentro, with the light-welterweight final at 19.00 followed by the super-heavyweight final at 19.15. Team GB's reigning Commonwealth and European Games champion Joe Joyce entered the competition hoping to emulate fellow Londoner Anthony Joshua, who won the gold medal four years ago and is now IBF heavyweight champion in the professional ranks. From 21.00, there is a review of the Games, featuring all the highs, lows and memorable moments from the first summer Olympics to be held in South America. **9.00** **Fake or Fortune?** Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould try to uncover the truth behind three mysterious portraits. The paintings in question are that of a child, thought to have been painted by modern artist Willem de Kooning, the image of a lady, considered the work of 18th-century society painter Philip Mercier, and a portrait of an old general, attributed to the 19th-century German master Adolph von Menzel. The investigation forces the duo to embark on a worldwide quest, taking them from Miami, Florida, to Berlin and a small town in Belgium. Last in the series. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Manish Bhasin presents action from the latest Premier League matches, which were Sunderland v Middlesbrough, and West Ham United v Bournemouth. **11.25** **Olympics 2016.** Live coverage of the closing ceremony from the Maracana in Rio, including the extinguishing of the flame and the handover to 2020 hosts Tokyo. **4.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **4.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 Countryfile. (R) **7.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **9.15** Olympics: Rio Highlights 2016. Action from the 15th and penultimate day in Rio. **1.00** Film: Pal Joey. (1957) Musical comedy, starring Frank Sinatra. **2.45** **Flag II** (R) **3.25** Highlands: Scotland's Wild Heart. (R) **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Olympics 2016. Further live action on the 16th and final day in Rio. **6.30** **Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers.** Nick Park's Oscar-winning animation, in which the inventor and his dog find their lives turned upside down by their villainous penguin lodger. (R) **7.00** **Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best?** Chris Packham and Liz Bonnin present the first of two programmes in which they put their canine chums and feline friends under the microscope, with the aim of answering the age-old question – which are best, cats or dogs? The animals go head to head in a series of rounds testing different aspects, beginning in this edition with intelligence, sensory powers and physical prowess. On the search for answers, dog-lover Chris comes face to face with a pack of wolves, while feline fan Liz confronts an Arabian wild cat to discover how the relationship between humans and their pets have evolved. (R) **8.00** **Robot Wars.** Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present more battles, featuring one of the tallest robots to ever enter the arena, a mechanical lobster, and a machine with spinning teeth. **9.00** **Dragons' Den.** The panel assesses more money-spinning ideas, including an unusual coffee lid, a range of coconut-based products, and a safety device for hairstyling gadgets. Evan Davis presents. **10.00** **Fleabag.** New series. Comedy, written by and starring Phoebe Waller-Bridge as a woman wrestling with the demands of modern living through a mixture of bravado and casual sex. **10.30** **Murder in Successville.** New series. DI Sleet is framed for the murder of Nick Knowles. It falls to his latest celebrity sidekick Vicky Pattison to clear his name. **11.00** Film: **Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll.** (2010) **12.50** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.45** NYPD: Biggest Gang in New York? (R) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Brunch. **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** Film: Columbo: Swan Song. (1974) **1.15** ITV News: Weather. **1.20** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.20** The Chase. (R) **3.20** Film: The Incredible Hulk. (2008) Comic-book adventure, starring Edward Norton. **5.25** Masterpiece with Alan Titchmarsh. (R) **6.25** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.40** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** **The Zoo.** In Regent's Park, keeper Paul Kybett notices a 15-year-old lioness is not feeding, so vet Tai Strike and her team are called in to perform an emergency exploratory operation. The animal appears to be getting better after the procedure, but then takes a turn for the worse, leaving staff facing one of the most difficult decisions of all. Meanwhile, keeper Graeme Williamson begins a new role training chimps one-on-one, and at Whipsnade, an Asian elephant calf takes its first steps guided by its mother. Narrated by Sarah Lancashire. (R) **8.00** **Midsomer Murders.** An international cycling competition comes to the Midsomer village of Burwood Mantle, but when the race leader is murdered, DCI Barnaby and DS Nelson must investigate. During the race's finale, the victim overlooks his team-mate to win, leaving the team owner annoyed that he disobeyed his orders, and the rival manager disappointed that his team lost. However, as the pair look into the case, they find themselves drawn into a competitive world of blackmail, bribery and bloodshed, where winning comes at any cost. (R) **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** **Slow Train Through Africa with Griff Rhys Jones.** The comedian travels through Zambia and Zimbabwe. (R) **11.15** **Tipping Point.** Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz show. (R) **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Shipping Wars. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Frasier. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **8.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons: Mr Burns Day. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons: Mr Burns Day. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons: Mr Burns Day. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons: Mr Burns Day. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons: Mr Burns Day. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons: Mr Burns Day. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons: Mr Burns Day. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons: Mr Burns Day. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** **Posh Pawn.** New series. A sculptor wants to sell a life-size statue of David Beckham, James takes a rare Porsche for a spin, and Claudia values a pair of designer handbags for a customer who is trying to fund a mansion for her cat. A member of the team drops a bombshell as a rival high-end pawnbroking store opens its doors in Manchester City Centre. **8.00** Film: **Transformers: Dark of the Moon.** (2011) Premiere. The heroic autobots discover that a spaceship from their own planet crashed into the moon decades ago, carrying their former leader and an incredibly powerful device. They must fight to defend the human race as their enemies the decepticons plot to use this machine to rebuild their own world and destroy the Earth. Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley. **11.00** Film: **The Grey.** (2011) Eight stranded oil rig workers must make a gruelling journey across the Alaskan tundra, stalked by a pack of ferocious wolves. Adventure, starring Liam Neeson and Frank Grillo. **1.10** Friday Night Dinner. (R) **1.40** Walking the Himalayas. Levison Wood returns to the site of his car crash to resume the journey. (R) **2.35** The World's Weirdest Weather. Featuring popcorn-like snow in South Carolina. (R) **3.30** China: Treasures of the Jade Empire. Exploring the tombs of China's greatest dynasty. (R) **4.25** Phil: Secret Agent Down Under. A family from Yorkshire seeks a new home in Adelaide. (R) **5.15** Location, Location, Location. Catching up with two couples who had high expectations. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Shimmer and Shine. **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** The Fairy OddParents. **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Film: Christmas Song. (2012) Romantic drama, with Natasha Henstridge and Gabe Hogan. **1.45** Film: The Christmas Bunny. (2010) Family drama, starring Sophie Bolen. **3.40** Film: Lucky Christmas. (2011) Romantic drama, with Elizabeth Berkley and Jason Gray-Stanford. **5.25** Film: Defending Santa. (2013) Festive drama, starring Dean Cain. **7.00** **Christmas Makes You Laugh Out Loud.** Iain Lee narrates a compilation of amusing and outrageous Christmas-themed videos that have taken the internet by storm in a seasonal special showcasing hilarious online clips with a festive twist. Examples include the unpredictable reactions of youngsters, from the adorable moment a young boy catches Santa Claus delivering presents on his webcam to the tantrum to end all tantrums thrown by one child who does not receive the gifts he was expecting. (R) **8.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Christmas Special.** The debt collection agents grapple with moral dilemmas during the festive period, including a young family who are made homeless when the landlord repossesses their home. (R) **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** **Celebrity Big Brother.** The remaining housemates embark on their final week, knowing only one of them can be crowned Celebrity Big Brother winner on Friday night. The past four weeks has certainly seen quite a few fall-outs – will things get better or worse as the celebrities begin to eye up the prize? **10.00** **V Festival Live.** The second of two live broadcasts from the festival. **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Suspects: The Enemy Within. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.50** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
1.00 Olympics 2016 **10.00** Secret Voices of Hollywood **11.30** Entertaining the Troops **12.30** Fifties British War Films: Days of Glory **1.00** Dancing in the Blitz: How World War Two Made British Ballet **2.30** Secret Voices of Hollywood **4.00** Close
ITV2
12.20 The X Factor: Top 10 OMG! Moments **1.20** Take Me Out **2.50** You've Been Framed! **3.30** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **4.20** FYI Daily **4.25** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.15** The Xtra Factor: Top 10 Judge Moments **8.25** Film: Corpse Bride (2005) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: Corpse Bride (2005) **8.00** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **10.00** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **12.55** Bordertown **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.40 Film: Calamity Jane (1953) **12.40** A Touch of Frost **2.55** Wycliffe **4.05** Film: That's Carry On (1978) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** Film: That's Carry On (1978) **5.55** Margery and Gladys **8.00** Royal Stories **9.00** Million Dollar Princesses **10.05** Film: The Young Victoria (2009) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10** Film: The Young Victoria (2009) **12.10** Wire in the Blood **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.40** Rising Damp **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
1.40 Film: Destry (1954) **2.40** FYI Daily **2.45** Film: Destry (1954) **3.45** Film: The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1967) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** Film: The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1967) **6.00** Mr Bean **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.05** Film: State of Play (2009) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: State of Play (2009) **11.40** Film: Transporter 3 (2008) **12.40** FYI Daily **12.45** Film: Transporter 3 (2008) **1.45** Highway Patrol **2.10** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.00 Coach Trip: Road to Ibiza **2.30** Film: Turner & Hooch (1989) **4.35** The Goldbergs **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **11.00** Gogglebox **12.40** Rude Tube: Ultimate Champions **1.45** Containment **2.40** Gogglebox **3.20** Hollyoaks
Film4
1.00 Marmaduke (2010) **2.45** The Spy Next Door (2010) **4.35** Big (1988) **6.40** A Good Year (2006) **9.00** 3:10 to Yuma (2007) **11.25** The Paperboy (2012) **1.35** Sirocco (1977) **3.50** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Expecting Amish, Channel 5, 3.15pm

An Amish teenager joins her friends in Los Angeles, expecting to return home after a year and marry her boyfriend. She has an affair with a DJ during the break, which shakes her devotion to her culture. When she realises she is pregnant, she faces being ostracised from her family. Drama, starring AJ Michalka and Alyson Stoner. (2014)

TUESDAY

White Oleander, BBC1, 11.20pm

A 15-year-old girl's happy life is thrown into upheaval when her mother is sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering her lover. Astrid spends the rest of her adolescence drifting from one foster home to another, but her mother remains a constant influence in her life. Drama based on Janet Fitch's novel, starring Alison Lohman, Michelle Pfeiffer, Renee Zellweger, Robin Wright and Billy Connolly. (2002)



Keeping Rosy, Thursday, BBC1, 11.30pm

WEDNESDAY

The Fourth Kind, Channel 4, 12.55am

A psychiatrist in an Alaskan town interviews traumatised patients claiming to suffer from nightmares. Using hypnosis to recover their deepest memories, she is horrified to find evidence they may have been abducted by aliens in an extraterrestrial conspiracy that continues to affect the area. Sci-fi horror, starring Milla Jovovich. (2009)

THURSDAY

Keeping Rosy, BBC1, 11.30pm

A businesswoman who has devoted her life to running a media agency is betrayed by her partners. Emotional and angry, she commits an uncharacteristic violent act and takes increasingly desperate measures to make amends and protect an innocent from further harm. Thriller, starring Maxine Peake. (2014)

FRIDAY

Bird on a Wire, ITV, 10.40pm

A police informant responsible for the conviction of a drug dealer enters a witness protection scheme. Years later, his former college sweetheart recognises him at a petrol station, blowing his cover. Comedy adventure, with Mel Gibson and Goldie Hawn. (1990)

Contestants hope to rise to the challenge

The Olympics are over, so now it's time for another prestigious competition to begin – the hunt for Britain's best amateur baker. And this one involves a lot more cake...

Last year's Great British Bake Off was the most successful series to date, with more than 13 million viewers tuning in to watch Nadiya Hussain take the trophy. It also provided plenty of talking points, including Paul Jagger's amazing bread lion, which won a special commendation from judge Paul Hollywood, a man who isn't known for being easily impressed.

So will the latest run be able to top it? Well, the signs are promising as it seems that after six series of making double entendres and consoling contestants about their soggy bottoms, this time around, presenter Mel Giedroyc has caught the baking bug herself.

She told Prima Magazine: "For the first time this year, I have actually done some!"

"Paul gave us a good recipe for no-knead bread and Sue showed me

how to make soda bread. Cake-wise, we made a pineapple upside-down sponge, which was a bit of a hit with the crew. And I really loved making it."

In fact, she enjoyed it so much that she's admitted that she's discussed opening up a tearoom with co-presenter Sue Perkins once Bake Off is finished.

That won't be for a while yet though, as the new series gets under way and we meet the dozen bakers who will be hoping to wow us with their pastry.

Every year, the standard seems to get higher, and judges Paul and Mary Berry have come up with 30 new challenges designed to test their technical know-how and creative flair. From bread to biscuits, and high-end patisserie to store cupboard classics via beautiful botanical creations, the class of 2016 will have to prove they can do it all.

In the first edition, the focus is on cakes as Paul and Mary take the hopefuls back to basics by asking them to whip up a British classic in

the signature challenge. However, we shouldn't take that to mean that the contestants are being eased in gently, as the judges will be as exacting as ever.

Then it's on to the dreaded technical challenge, which sees them getting to grips with fatless sponges and tricky chocolate work as they attempt to make a popular little cake.

Finally, it's the showstopper, which gives them a chance to really impress – but Paul and Mary are looking for perfection, and someone has to go home...

If that's not quite enough Bake Off action for one week, the episode is followed by The Chronicles of Nadiya, which sees the reigning champion going back to her family's roots in Bangladesh, where she shares some of her favourite recipes.

Then on Friday, BBC Two brings us The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice, as Jo Brand looks at some of the highlights – and lowlights – of the first edition, and chats to the first baker to be evicted from the tent.



The Great British Bake Off, Wednesday, BBC1, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

500 Questions

ITV, 9pm

New series. General knowledge quiz hosted by writer and broadcaster Giles Coren in which contestants bank cash as they progress through rounds of 50 questions, but are eliminated if they answer three in a row incorrectly. This is an intense battle of brainpower that will test even the cleverest of contestants with a relentless stream of demanding questions, meaning intellect, strategy and stamina are all essential in order to win as there are no help, hints or multiple choice options to fall back on.

TUESDAY

One Of Us

BBC1, 9pm

Juliet Stevenson and an equally top drawer cast star in this new drama set in the remote Scottish Highland village of Braeston. When two childhood sweethearts are killed on their return from honeymoon, their families are understandably devastated to hear of the deaths, but their world is turned upside down when the murderer arrives badly injured on their doorstep the night after the killing, leaving them with a terrible dilemma. Good support comes from Joanna Vanderham.

Beauty and the Baker

Channel 4, 10pm

New series. Israeli comedy drama about a baker and a megastar who are galaxies apart but find that sparks fly when their worlds collide. Baker Amos still lives at home with his parents in a cramped apartment in a Tel Aviv suburb and after separating from his nagging girlfriend of nine years, his life changes forever when he meets Noa, one of the richest and most beautiful women in Israel. Starring Aviv Alush. In Hebrew.

WEDNESDAY

Can Britain Have a Payrise?

BBC2, 8pm

New Prime Minister Theresa May has pledged to focus on rewarding hard-working people with higher wages – and there are a lot of people in the UK who will be hoping that applies to them. One in five working adults are officially classed as low paid, and nearly half the British workforce earns less than £20k a year, but can we really expect that to change? James O'Brien and Stephanie

McGovern host a studio debate with 100 people from around the country who represent a different pay levels and who will be answering some very big questions, including whether British employees work hard enough and if bosses are paid too much. Stephanie will also be speaking to experts about the impact Brexit will have on our salaries.

The Watchman

Channel 4, 9pm

Stephen Graham is undoubtedly one of Britain's finest actors, one equally comfortable in Shane Meadows' brilliant urban drama This Is England and the period American setting of Boardwalk Empire. We last saw him in the BBC's The Secret Agent, and now he's back on our screens in this one-off drama, playing father-of-two Carl, a CCTV operator who spends his working days alone, watching the world through a series of screens. But Carl is becoming increasingly horrified and frustrated by the events he witnesses, and particularly by what he considers to be the police's inability to bring criminals to book. When they refuse to tackle a group of drug dealers, Carl decides to intervene – setting in motion a terrifying chain of events.



One Of Us, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

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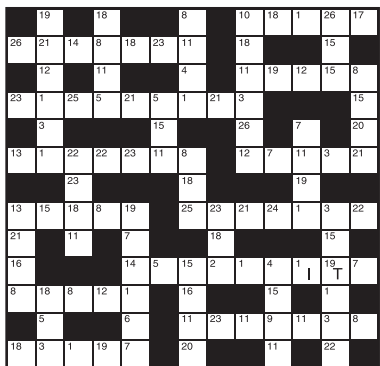
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Building 26, Unit 5 First Avenue, Pensnett Trading Estate, Kingswinford DY6 7TB

BRAIN GYM No.391

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
H	W	S	V	A	T	C	L	M	P	X	B	U
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Y	Q	I	O	J	F	Z	E	N	K	G	D	R

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

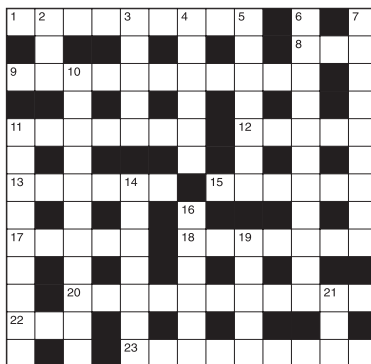
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. A hearty meal of luscious food? (4,5)
8. It's currently charged in associations (3)
This is just a mess! (4,7)
11. Plenty upset about a fine (7)
It's gloomy when five hundred get back (5)
- 13 & 15Ac. The fairies associated with Lilliput (6,6)
15. See 13 Across
17. The sailor in bed is an early explorer... (5)
18. ...as seen in strange tales of the briny! (3-4)
20. Exhausted, in an attitude of prayer (2,4,5)
22. Structure that is just antiluvian! (3)
23. Sham head-bedeep - don't believe it! (9)

Down

2. Sound receiver used in the army (3)
3. The point that will give a well-defined image (5)
4. A din we hear causes vexation (6)
5. Foot-plate (7)
6. Part of the service provided for the main meal (6,5)
7. As a rebel, he could be unsettling (9)
10. Very small tomes kept by the secretary (6,5)
11. Male cop in disguise (9)
4. Causes a detonation - exacts no penalty (4,3)
16. In addition to being a bigwig! (2,4)
9. Frank Lester reveals a low joint (5)
21. I will show each good omen, initially (3)



Quick Clues:

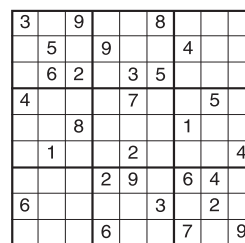
Across

1. Uncompounded (9)
8. Abrade (3)
9. Finite (11)
11. Duck (7)
12. Rub clean (5)
13. Fracture (6)
15. Attract (6)
17. Memorise (5)
18. Designate (7)
20. Instructive (11)
22. Tin (3)
23. Insidip (9)

Down

2. Untruth (3)
3. Mistake (5)
4. Strove (6)
5. Bond (7)
6. Foreboding (11)
7. Hateful (9)
10. Disposition (11)
11. Disproportion (9)
14. Guide (7)
16. Worry (6)
19. Self-esteem (5)
21. Idiot (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3×3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS >

7	2	1	8	4	9	5	3
3	4	8	5	1	6	9	7
9	6	5	7	3	2	8	1
4	7	2	6	5	1	3	9
5	1	3	4	9	8	2	6
6	8	9	3	2	7	4	5
2	3	6	9	7	4	1	8
1	9	7	2	8	5	6	4
8	5	4	1	6	3	7	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Norman; 8 Repast; 10
 Wanderer; 11 Total; 12 Hind; 13 Piano; 17 Forte;
 18 Mate; 19 Ropes; 20 Contort; 21 Struts; 25
 Bertha. Down: 1 I know the 2 Origins; 3 Pant;
 4 Healing; 5 Parts; 6 Stale; 7 Armchair; 8 Pant;
 14 Possess; 15 Magenta; 16 Central; 19 Brush; 20
 Spare; 21 Under. QUICK - Across: 7 Ration; 8
 Strife; 10 Venture; 11 Rogue; 12 Deep; 13 Pinch
 17 Tepid; 18 Mute; 22 Start; 23 Niggard; 24
 Depart; 25 Detain. Down: 1 Provide; 2 Stunted;
 3 Bogus; 4 Attract; 5 Tinge; 6 Repe; 7 Deficient;
 14 Lecture; 15 Runaway; 16 Heading; 19 Aside;
 20 Hapov; 21 Acre.

Quiz

1. Which sinister oriental villain was the creation of Sax Rohmer?
2. On which island is the active volcano Pico de Teide?
3. In which novel did Squire Trelawney sail the Hispaniola?
4. What did America develop in the Manhattan Project?
5. Which car registration letter was launched in 1994?
6. Which clergyman is 'Primate of England'?
7. Which actor was born Richard Jenkins?
8. What is the collective name for birds of the genus Corvus?
9. Which sport adopted the Queensberry rules in 1867?
10. Which comedian co-wrote the book *Life and How to Survive It*?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Jane Fonda; 2 Alps; 3 Dock;
4 Record Breakers; 5 Korea;
6 Child Support Agency; 7 George and Ira
Gershwin; 8 Ray; 9 Barbara Windsor;
10 Kelvin.

Niner: PASTURING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

24391 gives a game,
5436781 gives a second game,
64186477 gives a third game.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Rural retreat – The Barley Mow in Penn



Chocs away with this tasty dessert



A real mash hit – minted lamb cutlets, with mashed potato and veg



Nice informal eating areas – but mind your head

Forget work hustle and bustle and just enjoy the Mowment

GONE are the days when the working day draws to its welcome conclusion and people slump off home, despondent, for their TV dinner.

Nowadays many are looking at each other, aghast, and suggesting: 'shall we go out?' The next question is: 'where to go?'

Well I have found the solution. Why not head off to Penn? The golf club to be precise. The Barley Mow is a beautiful place tucked away amid the hustle and bustle of a working city.

Approaching the venue there is a real heart-in-mouth moment symbolising a change from urban to olde worldie. The dwellings on either side quickly end and the road appears to just vanish.

The lovely, bright evening we decided to

Leigh Sanders tucks in

pay the pub a visit was obviously playing host to the Wolverhampton Dog Walkers' Society who had called an impromptu meeting in the sunshine. There was a real plethora of pooches, differing sizes, breeds and colours. It added to the countryside feel.

Now if you are over 6ft this is a real adventure. This pub may actually have been intended for hobbits. Bent over almost double, like that scene at the beginning of Lord of The Rings where Gandalf first bodes his welcome to Frodo, we popped in.

The bar area, keeping in size with the rest of the venue, is decorated with all manner of foreign coinage, sport and comedy ticket stubs from venues across the city so there is plenty to chatter about and keep you entertained while you wait to be served.

Note to diners: there is very limited seat-

ing space in the two rooms behind you – the table count barely breaking double figures – so any empty tables should be watched for like a hawk. Such is the popularity of the venue that these perching spots can often be full, so waiting may be required. But wait you should. It's worth it!

Signal

In keeping with the adventure theme, the menus are provided on the walls, so take note of what catches your eye and then return to the bar to order. The lack of phone signal in this area forces us humans to interact.

Starters don't really get too much of a look-in here so just mains were ordered. And when these arrived it was probably just as well. I had three tender lamb cutlets in a sweet jus with the largest mound of mashed potato and mixed veg. The mash was a lit-

tle too lumpy for my taste although it was creamy and very filling. The lamb was soft and tasty and fell away from the bone with relative ease.

My friend was in the mood for a pie and had the steak and stilton option with chips and another serving of veg. She commented on how 'homely' it felt and was chuffed at how much meat was inside.

It wasn't long before it became apparent about the venue's slight downfall. The size meant that when it was busy it was loud. And with the number of people and cooked food it did get a little warm.

But regardless of how full and sticky we were, we could not resist the desserts, sticky toffee pudding for me but my companion went straight for the chocolate fudge cake.

Polite staff, lovely food and a good selection of beers. This little corner of rural paradise is a great choice for a bit of R and R.

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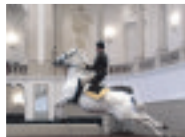
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Photo credit Kit Houghton

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HALESOWEN

£335,000

hall has wood-effect flooring. The lounge has a bay window and wood-effect laminate flooring. The breakfast kitchen is fitted with a range of units plus integrated double electric oven, hob, dishwasher, automatic washing machine and fridge freezer. Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or visit www.hickshadley.com



Imposing family residence on a large corner plot

With four double bedrooms, this imposing property in Straits Road, Dudley, lies on a large corner plot.

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DUDLEY

£311,950

It has a reception hall, a lounge with a feature fireplace and a window overlooking the frontage, a dining room, a utility room, a fitted cloakroom, a well equipped kitchen with wood-effect wall and base

units and working surfaces and tiled flooring and splash-back tiling. This room has a clear breakfast room section.

There is also a galleried landing, four double bedrooms a bathroom and gardens.

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WOMBOURNE, Cushman Avenue
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KINGSWINFORD, Park Street
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£525,000

Offers in the Region Of £369,950

£299,950



DUDLEY, Mansion Close, 'Earls Keep'
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SWINDON, The Holloway
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NETHERTON, St. Peters Road
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DUDLEY, Abbotsford Drive
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Offers in the region of £264,950

New price £259,950

£234,950

Offers in the region of £220,000

£215,000



LOWER GORNAL, Milton Crescent, Straits
A semi detached for improvement occupying a fine corner plot within walking distance of so many day-to-day amenities in well regarded district. Offering tremendous potential the accommodation includes hall, through living room (formally separate rooms), kitchen, verandah, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, garden (in need of attention). EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY.



NETHERTON, Wharf Mews
This IMMACULATE & STUNNING, MODERN, MEWS STYLE HOME comprises: Hall, White Gloss Breakfast Kitchen, Gorgeous Sitting Room, Three FANTASTIC SIZED BEDROOMS (Master with Stunning En-Suite), Beautifully Appointed Bathroom, Pleasant Garden. EPC B



WOODSETTON, Hockley Road, Bramford Estate
A conscientiously maintained, traditional, gas centrally heated and double glazed, Semi-Detached that would benefit from some sympathetic updating, set in popular/convenient district. Comprising: Porch, hall, pantry, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, re-appointed wet/shower room, lengthy garage, neat garden.EPC:T.B.A. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, The Straits
EXCEPTIONALLY STYLISH gas centrally heated double glazed semi detached 'miners cottage' that has been significantly modernised in recent years carefully retaining many fine period features. Situated in favoured/convenient district comprising: hallway, lounge with cast 'living flame' fireplace, store, refitted kitchen and a CONSERVATORY beyond. Two bedrooms (principle with an extensive range of built in units) bathroom. Potential parking LENGTHY REAR GARDEN. EPC: E SEDGLEY



PENSNETT, Commonside
This EXTENDED & TRADITIONAL, LARGE, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Two Spacious Reception Rooms, Extended Kitchen, White Bathroom, Excellent Driveway, Garage & Low Maintenance Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC E

New price WAS £161,950, NOW £157,500

New price Offers in Excess of £150,000

Offers in the region of £145,000

Offers in the region of £142,500

£129,950



SEDGLEY, The Walk
LARGE EXTENSION AND TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! A gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and part uPVC double glazed semi detached for improvement in popular/convenient district. With a number of character features the accommodation includes entrance hall, through lounge (with patio doors), kitchen, lobby, separate toilet, store, further living/occasional bedroom with large shower/wet room ensuite. Three bedrooms, bathroom, drive, secluded rear garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY



PENSNETT, Heydon Road
This BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED & ATTRACTIVELY FURNISHED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME in brief comprises: Porch, Hall, Stylish through Lounge, Contemporary Gloss Kitchen, Gorgeous White Suite Shower Room, Driveway & Lovely Garden. EPC:



PENSNETT, Church Street
This MOST APPEALING, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Kitchen, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Modern White Suite Bathroom, Driveway, Garage & Pretty Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:E



DUDLEY, Holly Road
A good-sized family home priced to reflect the tremendous opportunity for improvement. This semi-detached property benefits from entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, parking, integral garage and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY



UPPER GORNAL, Hill Street
NO UPWARD CHAIN - Fastidiously maintained, gas centrally heated (recent boiler) & double glazed traditional end terrace of character that has been 'transformed' in recent years with GOOD DISTANT VIEWS from the rear comprising: Lounge, recently refitted breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with white suite, slatted patio and ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in th region of £122,500

£114,950

£114,950

Offers in the region of £114,950

Offers in the Region of £107,500



KINGSWINFORD, Balfour Road

A VERY LARGE DETACHED FAMILY HOME adjoining established trees/ open green to the side, a position enhancing the INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS layout with THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, with en-suite shower room With BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY with LARGE DETACHED GARAGE and a secluded rear garden EPC D

£289,950



WOODSETTON, Calder Rise

Attractive, meticulously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED Detached in short favoured cul-de-sac. Comprising: Reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units and integrated appliances, three bedrooms, re-appointed shower room (former bathroom) lengthy garage with extensive parking, landscaped 'low maintenance' rear garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £225,000



SEDGLEY, Woodbank Road, Brownswall estate

MAGNIFICENT LENGTHY REAR GARDEN (with secluded decking positioned to catch last of the evening's sun). A significantly improved, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached in favoured district comprising: reception hall, store, dining room with bay, lounge with patio doors, kitchen. Three bedrooms (two with fitted units), bathroom, separate toilet. Lengthy 31'10" garage with separate toilet and utility room. Block paved foregarden, delightful secluded lengthy rear garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £188,000



COSELEY, Coppice Road

Outstanding, EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed Semi-Detached that has been 'transformed' to provide flexible accommodation comprising: kitchen, open-plan lounge-diner, bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, SELF-CONTAINED 'GRANNY' (or similar) ANNEXE providing Lounge, Bedroom, Kitchen, Shower room. CONTRACTOR'S GARAGE approx. 16'3" x 14'11" with roller door & gated/secured parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £199,950



KINGSWINFORD, Rangeways Road

A STUNNING & BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW is well placed, close to local amenities, providing a 'ready to move into' and HIGH SPECIFICATION layout including TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS. With DRIVEWAY, CARPORT, GARAGE and a beautifully landscaped garden. EPC D

Offers in the Region Of £190,000



UPPER GORNAL, Pale Street

SPACIOUS, NEW BUILD, gas centrally heated, double glazed dormer style detached with flexible room arrangements. Conveniently situated, the accommodation comprises: hall, stylish BATHROOM, double bedroom, magnificent 'hub of the house' 19 ft living/dining room/kitchen. To first floor is a large 20'7" principal bedroom with shower room en suite. Parking, gardens, distant views. EPC: SAP: B. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £179,950, NOW £177,950



SEDGLEY, Barn Avenue

ENVIABLY SITUATED at head of highly favoured cul-de-sac with tremendous distant views, a traditional semi-detached offering potential. The gas centrally heated accommodation provides: Reception Hall, pantry, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms, bathroom, lengthy garage, sheltered/secluded rear garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £170,000



DUDLEY, Himley Road

ENLARGED, modernised, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, dining room with bay, 17' lounge, breakfast kitchen; three bedrooms, bathroom. Lengthy garden, panoramic views, and CAR PORT together with ADDITIONAL PARKING at rear. EPC: D.SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £161,000



BROCKMOOR, Cressett Lane

THIS CONTEMPORARY & EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Attractive Lounge, SLENDID MODERN BREAKFAST KITCHEN, TWO GENEROUS FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Beautifully Appointed White Suite Bathroom, Driveway & Lovely Garden. EPC C

£129,950



HOLLY HALL, Devon Crescent

THIS BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED & DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, TWO SPACIOUS RECEPTION ROOMS, Splendid Modern Kitchen, Three Family Bedrooms, Beautifully Re-Appointed Shower Room, Driveway & Established Garden. EPC: C

£124,950



PENSNETT, High Street

BOASTING A LARGE EXTENSION which creates SPACIOUS LIVING SPACE including an enhanced kitchen and lounge, This THREE BEDROOM, HOME is situated closely Russells Hall Hospital and also comprises: Dining Room, Bathroom, LARGE REAR Garden. EPC: D

New price Offers in the Region Of £124,950



KINGSWINFORD, Wrens Avenue

REQUIRING UPDATING THROUGHOUT, this TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE offers a very generous TWO BEDROOM layout with FANTASTIC POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT, plus a large block paved driveway and a good sized rear garden, with much potential. EPC C

No upward chain £124,950



TIVIDALE, Speakers Close

This ideal starter home is situated in a cul-de-sac location, on the popular modern development of Speakers Close, Tividale. Being end of terrace and with TWO BEDROOMS it also boasts entrance porch, hallway, lounge-diner, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, central heating and double glazing. Front and rear gardens with parking. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950



SEDGLEY, Rowan Road

TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL - for improvement, an APPRECIABLY SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated (not tested) & double glazed (as seen) semi detached occupying a corner plot in popular district comprising: hall, toilet, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Brick stores, concrete panel garage, garden (in need of attention). EPC: TBA. SEDGLEY OFFERS BASED ON £107,000 TO BE RECEIVED FOR THE VENDORS CONSIDERATION BY MIDDAY MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2016.

Offers in the region of £100,000



DUDLEY, Walters Row

Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, semi detached with vacant possession overlooking park in a convenient/established district. Accommodation provides: kitchen, living/dining room. Two double bedrooms, bathroom. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

£99,950



PENSNETT, Birds Meadow

THIS MOST APPEALING & SPACIOUS, TRADITIONAL, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen, Rear Veranda, Two / Three Bedrooms, Re-Appointed Wet Room, Rear Garden with lovely distant views! NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D

£94,950



QUARRY BANK, Grosvenor Way

THIS WELL PRESENTED & MOST APPEALING, SPACIOUS, TWO BEDROOM, MID TERRACE PROPERTY comprises: Porch, Hall, Attractive Lounge, Well Fitted Kitchen, Two Double First Floor Bedrooms, Well Appointed Shower Room & Pleasant Rear Garden. EPC: E

£72,500



PENSNETT, Tansey Court

A SUPERB, BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED GROUND FLOOR FLAT enjoying a pleasant secluded setting and offering a spacious, attractively re-appointed layout which is READY TO MOVE INTO, plus ALLOCATED CAR PARKING and maintained communal rear gardens. EPC E



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DUDLEY
Parsons Street

TO LET

A furnished double room with en-suite in Dudley town centre. Communal lounge (large flat screen TV with Free View channels) Communal Kitchen (all mod cons) laundry area with brand new washers & dryers. Includes ALL bills plus free wifi. No deposit required. Tenant checking process of £30. Administration fee of £100. Available now to view. EPC C

£100 Weekly

DUDLEY
Bean Road

TO LET

A 1st floor, one bed flat with double glazing and electric panel heaters. Having a lounge, bedroom, fitted kitchen, shower/WC, unfurnished, available now for long term. Dss considered with guarantor. EPC E

£320 PCM & Fees

NETHERTON
Halesowen Road

TO LET

A one bedroom ground floor flat. Open plan lounge/kitchen. kitchen includes cooker. Walk in shower & separate toilet/sink. One double bedroom. Economy 7 storage heaters. Double glazing. Unfurnished. No pets. No DSS. EPC F

£330 PCM & Fees

OLDBURY
Alexandra Way

NEW

A modern one bedroom first floor apartment with open plan lounge with kitchen area, bathroom and allocated parking. Dss considered with a guarantor. Available from September. EPC D

£375 PCM & Fees

STOURBRIDGE
Richardson Drive

TO LET

Unique split level one bedroom apartment. Sought after area. Private ground floor entrance to hallway with stairway to comfortable first floor accommodation Near to Stourbridge town. Has lounge, fitted kitchen to include oven & fridge freezer. Bathroom on ground floor. Unfurnished. Allocated parking area to rear. No DSS. No pets. Available now to view. EPC - D

£405 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
W'hampton Street

TO LET

A basement apartment in Dudley Town Centre with secure off road parking, briefly comprising open plan lounge/dining/fitted kitchen, a double bedroom and bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Central heating, available to view now. EPC E

£425 PCM & Fees

Priory Street, Dudley
The Old Court House

TO LET

A modern 1st floor apartment in a popular block, convenient for Dudley Town Centre. Open plan lounge/diner/kitchen, separate bedroom, shower/WC. Available now. No Pets. Will consider DSS with a guarantor. EPC D

£450 PCM & Fees

STOURBRIDGE
Murcroft Road

NEW

A first floor, two bed flat, having central heating, double glazing, lounge, kitchen and bathroom with shower. Possible parking, yard to front, unfurnished, available now. DSS considered with a home owner guarantor. EPC D

£450 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Windmill End

TO LET

A two bedroom ground floor apartment with separate entrance and access to rear courtyard. Accommodation comprises of open plan lounge and kitchen area. Bathroom with shower over bath and w.c. Gas central heating. Unfurnished, available to view now. EPC C

£450 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Ednam Road

TO LET

A one bedroom ground floor flat conveniently located in the town centre. With a modern fitted kitchen and lounge area. Being completed to a high standard, viewings are recommended to appreciate this spacious apartment. With a stylish bathroom, shower over bath, Central heating and double glazing. No DSS. EPC C

£475 PCM & Fees

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Dudley
Attingham Drive

NEW

A modern, ground floor two bed apartment with double glazing and electric heating, open plan dining/lounge/kitchen, one double bedroom and one single, house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Available part furnished or unfurnished, allocated parking, walking distance of Dudley town centre. Available for viewing now. No DSS. EPC C

£450 PCM & Fees

LOWER GORNAL
Ruiton Street

NEW PRICE

An distinctive modern two bedroom ground floor apartment in the popular Lower Gornal area having double glazing and central heating with secure off road parking to the rear of the building. Has lounge and fitted kitchen with bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Two good sized bedrooms. Unfurnished, no DSS, no pets. Available now. EPC - B

£500 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Ednam Road

TO LET

A one bedroom ground floor apartment located within walking distance of Dudley town centre. Has open plan lounge with fully fitted kitchen to include integrated oven/hob, fridge freezer & washing machine. Has double bedroom and separate bathroom with shower over bath, central heating system. No Dss. No pets. Available now to view. EPC - C

£475 PCM & Fees

Bilston
Evergreen Close

NEW

Nicely presented one bedroom back to back mews house with garden and parking to the front. Having open plan lounge with fitted kitchen to include all white goods, bathroom on the 1st floor with shower over bath. Bedroom has large fitted wardrobes. Double glazing. No Dss. No pets. Available end of September. EPC - D

£475 PCM & Fees

TIPTON
Dudley Road

NEW INSTRUCTION

A spacious four bed mid terrace modern property. Having double glazing, central heating, off road parking for two cars and a garage, the property is spread over three floors and briefly comprises: Entrance hall with stairs off, modern fitted kitchen with built-in appliances, downstairs WC, good sized lounge with patio doors to the garden. Master bedroom with en-suite shower/WC/bidet, bedroom two with a further en-suite shower/WC, and the third floor with Bed 3 and 4 and a house bathroom/WC with mixer shower over the bath. Unfurnished, available now for long term let. No DSS, no pets. Viewing highly recommended! EPC D

£750 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Parsons Street

TO LET

A ground floor, two bedroom apartment situated in Dudley town centre. Comprises a lounge, fitted kitchen and bathroom with shower. The property has central heating and secure parking. It is unfurnished and available now. DSS will be considered with a guarantor. Available to view now! EPC E

£495 PCM & Fees

Tipton
Warren Close

TO LET

Trinity Property is pleased to offer a Two bed flat which consists of:- Two bedrooms, Lounge, Bathroom, Open plan Kitchen with laminated flooring, Double glazing, Central heating. Available now to view. Housing benefits considered with a guarantor and pets considered. EPC - D

£475 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
St James Road

TO LET

A two bedroom first floor flat briefly comprises of open plan lounge/kitchen/dining area, two good sized bedrooms, bathroom and plenty of storage. Easy walking distance to Dudley Town Centre. No pets. No DSS. Available for long term rent. EPC - C

£525 PCM & Fees



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TIPTON Monins Avenue



A delightful one bedroom apartment situated on the popular Tivdale keys estate. Being on the third floor, this home benefits from fabulous views. Having good size lounge, bedroom, fitted kitchen and bathroom. Allocated parking. Viewings are recommended to appreciate what this lovely apartment has to offer. Leasehold. EPC - TBC

Offers In Excess of: £65,000

DUDLEY Oak Green



We would like to offer this four bedroom detached property. Having double glazing and central heating. Conveniently located to amenities. Having driveway to the front of the property. Property comprises of two reception rooms, Kitchen, utility room and conservatory. Having four bedrooms upstairs and family bathroom. Good sized enclosed rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC TBC.

£155,000

DUDLEY The Belfer



A unique opportunity to purchase a superb bungalow close to Dudley Town Centre. Having a lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, re-fitted showerroom, two double bedrooms, lean-to, attic with ladders and a front garden with a retaining wall. Parking space for two vehicles and gated access leading to a rear yard with substantial size and versatile use. Located in a cul-de-sac, viewing this property is a must EPC-G

£144,995

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UPPER GORNAL Club Row



beautifully presented 3 bedroom Semi-detached family home The Property is situated in a cul-de-sac location. With downstairs WC and spacious lounge, beamed ceiling with stairs to the first floor off, a further door leading to a stunning kitchen diner which has sliding double glazed doors leading in to a full width conservatory and a door to the outside. With house bathroom/WC and three good sized bedrooms (two double and one single). FREEHOLD. EPC C.

£142,950

NETHERTON The Sling



We are pleased to present this spacious two bedroom semi-detached property, having central heating and double glazing. At the front of the property there is a good-sized lounge with log burner, an inner hall with stairs to the first floor leads to the spacious kitchen/diner at the rear with access to large rear patio/garden. The first floor landing has two double bedrooms and a good sized house bathroom. The house is very well presented throughout and is ideal for a family home or as an investment property. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC TBC

£84,950

WEST BROMWICH Sams Lane



An attractive three bedroom town house situated in a popular location of West Bromwich. This spacious home split over three floor offers ample living space. Having a modern fitted kitchen on the ground floor with open plan dining area, plus separate study. Having front and rear gardens and rear access to allocated parking area. Being a fabulous family home, viewings are recommended to appreciate what this well presented property has to offer. NO UPWARD CHAIN

£174,950

LANESFIELD Brynmwar Road



An extended, well laid out three bed detached house. Having two reception rooms, a large fitted kitchen to the rear with outside access, upstairs bathroom/WC, three good-sized bedrooms, two with built-in wardrobes, and outside there is a beautiful garden/orchard. To the rear there is a patio area with steps up to a mature, south-facing garden. To the side of the property there is a garage with two doors. Viewings are highly recommended to appreciate the layout and size of this unique property. Freehold. EPC TBC.

£179,950

DUDLEY Wrens Nest Road



We would like to offer this modern three bedroom semi-detached property. Conveniently located to amenities. Having driveway to the side of the Property which leads to the lounge, down stairs WC and Dining/kitchen with access to the rear garden. The first floor landing has three bedrooms and family bathroom and a rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC TBC.

£124,950

WOODSETTON, DUDLEY Parkes Hall Road



●●●MUST BE VIEWED●●●We are pleased to offer this delightful and well-presented newly refurbished three bedroom detached property. Spacious Lounge, Brand New fitted kitchen/diner with utility room off having access to the side of the property and driveway. The first floor landing has three bedrooms and a brand new fitted Bathroom/WC with shower over the P shaped bath. The pleasant rear garden has a gravel and slab patio area and further lawned area. EPC TBC. MUST BE VIEWED. FREEHOLD (Note, there is a separate building plot next door for a further detached property with construction beginning presently)

£175,000

DUDLEY Cook Avenue



We are pleased to offer this very well presented three bedroom terrace family home. Having a double glazed entrance porch leading to a large lounge with stairs to the first floor landing, a door leads to the good sized kitchen diner, with access to the rear garden. Upstairs has three good sized bedrooms and house bathroom/WC. Having rear garden with patio and lawned area. Having central heating and double glazing. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC TBC.

£109,950

LOWER GORNAL Water Road



A splendid, detached, large dormer bungalow set in a Cul de sac Location in the sought-after Gornal Village. Spacious lounge, separate dining room. Fitted kitchen. Four good sized bedrooms (three doubles and one single), the master bedroom has an en-suite shower/WC room off. There is also a house bathroom/WC. Outside there is off road parking to the front, large garage and a private rear garden which comprises a bird aviary, summer house/studio and mature pond. Freehold, viewing is highly recommended. EPC TBC.

£275,000

DUDLEY Old Park Road



an additional attached 3 bedroom house. Situated in popular residential area of Old Park Road, Dudley.

£199,000

DUDLEY Corser Street



We are pleased to offer this Three bedroom detached home benefiting from no upward chain, having a driveway (with room for two cars) leading to the entrance hallway, a large lounge and fitted kitchen with separate dining area. Stairs lead to the first floor landing, having three good sized double bedrooms and house bathroom, with separate WC. The rear outside has patio area, lawn with various shrubs and borders with brick built shed. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC - D.

£163,500

KINGSWINFORD Halt Mews



A superb and well presented SEMI-DETACHED property on the highly demanded "Hinley View" modern development. This property has been much improved from the original specification having an entrance hall, guest WC, FITTED KITCHEN, spacious lounge, two DOUBLE bedrooms, family bathroom and a well kept rear garden. Having two parking spaces to the front, viewing is highly recommended on this fantastic home! EPC - C

£152,950

SEDGLEY Viewfield Crescent



●●● MUST BE VIEWED ●●● A pleasant three bed semi-detached family home in a sought-after location with great views to the side and rear. Double glazing, central heating, two reception rooms, modern kitchen and bathroom, three good sized bedrooms, large garden/patio to rear. Viewing recommended, EPC TBC

£129,950

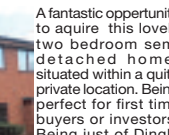
GORNAL, DUDLEY Brookdale



●●● Must be Viewed ●●● A very well presented three bed semi-detached property, having a long driveway to the front of the property with plenty of off road parking, leading to the entrance hall, which has stairs to the first floor landing and doors to; lounge/diner, kitchen, with a door to the rear lobby with a downstairs WC off. The first floor landing has doors to three good sized bedrooms and house bathroom. Having double glazing and central heating. To the rear there is patio area and terraced garden with access to the front via a side gate. FREEHOLD. EPC TBC

£139,500

TIVIDALE Dingle Hollow



A fantastic opportunity to acquire this lovely two bedroom semi-detached home, situated within a quite private location. Being perfect for first time buyers or investors. Being just of Dingle Street, this home is close to motorway links and local towns & schools. Having a fitted kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and family bathroom. Off road parking with side and rear gardens. Viewings are recommended. EPC-D

Offers In Excess Of: £90,000

TIPTON, Nay Court, Bradley

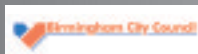


IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY ● A pleasant, one bedroom first floor apartment in a very convenient location, just off the Birmingham New Road. Off road parking and communal gardens, secure entry, Heating (CPC double glazing and electric heating, the apartment has a lovely lounge, a fitted kitchen, and a house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. No upward chain, highly recommended for viewing. EPC D

Offers In Excess Of: £55,000

Over 100 Lots

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Vacant Commercial Properties
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Land/Development Opportunities

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at Aston Villa Football Ground



13 Florence Road, Tipton
3 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £84,000-£88,000



3 Harvington Road, Coseley
3 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £79,000-£84,000



27 Moat Road, Tipton
2 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £34,000-£38,000



10 Ivyhouse Lane, Bilston
2 Bedroom Detached House with
Development Potential*
Guide: £29,000-£34,000



16 Welch Gate, Bewdley
2 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £95,000-£115,000



16a Leys Road, Brierley Hill
Ground Floor Studio Investment
Current Gross Income: £4,500pa
Guide: £Nil Reserve



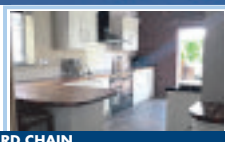
**Development potential is subject to obtaining the necessary planning consents*

***Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots*

****For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website*

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131 TIPTON ROAD, WOODSETTON O/A £350,000
•An impressive traditional detached residence backing onto protected fields
•Improved and enhanced yet still retaining lots of character
•Three bedrooms with a further attic/bedroom four, re-fitted bathroom
•Two reception rooms, conservatory, impressive enlarged breakfast kitchen
•EPC RATING F



73 THE BROADWAY, DUDLEY O/A £315,000
•Beautifully presented and extended four bedroom family home
•Spacious well proportioned high quality accommodation
•Impressive hallway, two reception rooms, farmhouse style kitchen
•Rarely does a property of this quality come to the market
•EPC RATING D



46 BHYLLS LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON O/A £220,000
•Traditional well proportioned three bedroom semi detached house
•Extensively renovated and improved throughout
•External insulated wall cladding, re-wired, re-fitted kitchen & bathroom
•Good sized garden plot, useful brick built utility room/play room with w.c.
•EPC RATING C



LAND AT TIVDALE STREET/DUDLEY PORT O/A £210,000
•Level site with work shop
•Outline planning consent
•Planning App No: DC/14/57543
•Convenient location



ST JAMES STREET, LOWER GORNAL £189,950
•Five new build detached bungalows with two bedrooms
•Traditionally built to a high standard with two parking spaces per plot
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Taking it to the top and further!

By Matt Joy

As if the regular F-Type R wasn't quick enough for you, the Jaguar Specialist Vehicle Operations department has got their hands on it to create the fastest production Jag this century.

The F-Type should definitely be on your radar by now. First launched in 2014 and revised just last year, it is the Porsche-worrying coupe and roadster that gave Jaguar a true successor to the E-Type, as well as a halo effect on the rest of the range. Now the SVO department has turned their attentions to it to create the F-Type SVR.

The changes are detailed and wide-ranging, with more power and torque from the 5.0-litre V8 engine, reduced drag and increased downforce thanks to the new rear wing, diffuser and front valance. There's also retuned suspension, less weight and unlikely as it may seem, an even louder exhaust system made from titanium and aircraft-spec alloy.

You can have an F-Type SVR in Roadster or Coupe form, just like the R version it's based on, and arguably it is the latter that's the best-looking of the two. The exterior changes certainly add aggression to what was an elegant and pretty shape, and you're left in no doubt that the SVR means business. Pick of the colour chart is the sharp blue shade that shows off the strong lines to best effect.

The F-Type and Jaguars in general have come a long way in the image stakes in just a few years thanks to an expanded range and exciting designs, and SVR as a sub-brand now has a second model to boost it's recognition. The F-Type SVR is the fastest series production Jaguar ever and can crack 200mph; that's a potent image to project.

There's no loss of cabin space in the SVR transformation but it remains a strict two-seater with an intimate, rather than spacious, cabin. Even so, six-footers can be comfortably accommodated in the supportive sports seats, the glovebox and storage bins will swallow plenty of oddments and the boot on the Coupe is big enough for a medium suitcase, as well as some smaller bags too. The Roadster's boot is inevitably smaller but space is freed up by opting for the tyre repair kit over a spare, and putting the roof down doesn't impact on boot space.

The tweaks beneath the skin are significant to the point where Jaguar developed a new rear suspension knuckle to improve the suspension response, and developed bespoke tyres with Pirelli just for this car. In



The SVR is best enjoyed when driven with a little more aggression

normal driving, the first thing you notice is that it rides surprisingly well; even this most extreme car in the whole range retains this familiar Jaguar quality, and it's clearly designed to be used every day.

It's even relatively quiet in the standard driving mode too.

But the SVR is best enjoyed when driven with a little more aggression. Switch into Dynamic mode and the most notable difference is the firmed up suspension, although the driver can tweak the individual settings for the steering, engine and gearbox. It feels extra sharp, responding with even more immediacy to inputs and stays flat, true and firm.

The engine dominates the experience, crackling and rasping with even more volume than the already-loud R Coupe, and pushing the SVR hard above 100mph. With

the freedom of the track to explore its full potential the SVR remains pleasingly rear-drive in its balance; you can feel the front wheels helping out occasionally but this is a car that can be sideways into, through and on the exit of a bend if you so wish.

To call it fun would be a gross understatement.

In Coupe form the SVR checks in at exactly £110,000, with another £5k required for the Roadster. That makes it almost £20,000 more than the R model, but for that you get the extra power and torque, the exterior changes including the aero upgrades and unique alloy wheels, the bespoke suspension upgrades, the 25kg weight loss including the lightweight exhaust and some interior fillips. That seems like good value to us.

Jaguar is billing the F-Type SVR as an all-weather supercar rather than a track war-

TESTED

Jaguar F-Type SVR Coupe, £110,000

Engine: 5.0-litre petrol unit producing 567bhp and 516lb.ft of torque

Transmission: Eight-speed automatic gearbox driving all four wheels

Performance: Top speed 200mph, 0-62mph in 3.7 seconds

Economy: 25mpg combined

Emissions: 269g/km of CO2

rior, but the fact it dealt so well with all these scenarios means there's a lot to be said for its capability to deal with daily use. 911 Turbo owners might see it as something of an upstart, but it has presence, is sufficiently comfortable and acceptably practical whilst crucially being a complete blast to drive when the circumstances permit. It's also relatively inexpensive for a car that can top 200mph...

Campaign to see the punishment fit crime

Nine in 10 Brits believe motorists who kill while driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs should be charged with manslaughter, a survey has revealed.

Road safety charity Brake interviewed 1,000 people as part of the study, with 91% of respondents agreeing a manslaughter charge was suitable for drivers who kill while under the influence.

The survey also revealed widespread support for increasing the severity of sentences for killer drivers, with 66% of respondents saying they should be jailed for a minimum of 10 years. Additionally, nearly 85% of respondents believe those who kill while driving illegally should be charged with dangerous driving, as opposed to careless driving.

The survey was conducted to mark the launch of Brake's 'Roads to Justice' campaign, which is being backed by a number of bereaved families who feel justice has not been served after their loved ones were killed by dangerous drivers.

Ian and Dawn Brown-Lartey are members of one such family. Their son Joseph was killed after a speeding driver ran a red light at more than 80 miles per hour, splitting Joseph's car in two in the collision.

The Brown-Lartey said: "We will never get over the loss of our beautiful son Joseph, who had his whole life ahead of him."

"Hearing that his killer will serve half of a six-year sentence was a further slap in the face to us and our family. The law needs to change so that sentences for causing death by dangerous driving reflect the crime."

Gary Rae, director of communications for Brake, added: "There are too many families, like the Brown-Lartey, who suffer the double trauma of losing a loved one in a sudden and violent way, and then witness the judicial system turning its back on them."

"That's why we are launching our Roads to Justice campaign, which calls on government to get tough on criminal drivers who kill or seriously injure others."

Lorry park receives mixed comments

The Department for Transport has outlined plans to build a huge lorry park in Kent to help alleviate congestion caused by Operation Stack.

Just off the M20, the park will provide spaces for around 3,600 lorries and will cost up to £250 million.

Operation Stack - essentially a system for parking heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) on the M20 when the Channel crossings are disrupted - was used on a record 32 days during 2015 after the cross-Channel routes were hit by "unprecedented disruption".

The resulting delays were estimated to have cost Kent's economy £1.45 million a day.

The new lorry park is scheduled to open in 2017 and will allow some or all of the amassed HGVs to be moved away from the motorway when Operation Stack is in force. A transport department spokesman said: "Operation Stack is only ever used as a last resort, but we recognise the impact it has on roads in Kent, and are determined to deliver an alternative solution. The new lorry area by the M20 will deliver better journeys for drivers and will not only support the region's economy, but also businesses as far away as Scotland that rely on the M20 to access the Port of Dover and the Channel Tunnel."

"We have committed up to £250 million for the lorry area and we are now making it a reality."

However, the Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England took to Twitter to express dismay at the decision, saying that a "lorry park the size of Disneyland in Kent is not the solution to OperationStack".

The Freight Transport Association, on the other hand, tweeted it was "good news for Kent businesses" and "an end to Operation Stack misery on M20".

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Mitsubishi Outlander has a keen price and is well-built

By James Parker

The Mitsubishi Outlander makes an interesting choice if you're looking for a reliable, well-equipped seven-seater that's keenly priced, decently built and more sharply styled in this improved MK3 model guise.

As before, there are two engines on offer, an 150PS 2.2-litre diesel, mated to an all-wheel drive chassis. And a clever PHEV plug-in hybrid petrol/electric variant that's selling like hotcakes.

As before, in its most conventional form, this Outlander features a 150PS 2.2-litre diesel engine, offered with a choice of six-speed manual or automatic transmission. The auto does add 1.5 seconds to the manual car's sprint to 62mph, stretching it out to 11.2 seconds. Both cars register an identical 124mph top speed.

The alternative is the PHEV Plug-in hybrid variant, which offers a 2.0-litre petrol engine aided by a 70KW generator and a couple of 80bhp electric motors, one at the front, one at the rear, giving all wheel drive and a combined power output in the region of 220bhp.

It's quite a remarkable vehicle, which most of the time will operate under battery power alone across its three driving modes.

Mode

Switch to its third 'Parallel Hybrid driving mode, which adds the resources of the petrol engine driving the front wheels, and you'll have a driving range claimed at 547 miles.

These facelifted models feature an attractive revised look. The changes make this Outlander look a little lower and sleeker than its predecessor. Inside, updates to the cabin make the fascia look simpler and classier and there are plenty of soft-touch finishes.

Moving back into the second row, there's reasonable space for two adults – or three at a squish. There's flexibility thanks to the way the bench can slide backwards and forwards by as much as 250mm.

Practicality

You can only have two rows in the PHEV hybrid model, but it's the only area of practicality that was compromised by the battery installation.

If you've chosen a model in which seating is possible in the luggage compartment, you access the rearmost section of the car via a sliding walk-in function and head in to find that there are two separate properly-sprung seats with integral head restraints and reclining backrests. They're small but at least there's the feeling that this Mitsubishi is a proper seven-seater.

With running costs, the entry-level diesel variant manages 53.3mpg on the combined cycle and 139g/km of CO2.

Go for the PHEV petrol/electric hybrid and there's a big step up, with a quoted combined cycle fuel figure of 156mpg and 42g/km of CO2.

This plug-in hybrid can drive for over 32 miles on a full electric charge and can be fast-charged to 80 per cent in 30 minutes!

Mitsubishi is doing well with this generation Outlander model, much of the technology is genuinely forward-thinking, even if you don't opt for a Plug-in hybrid variant that sets new standards, not only for Crossovers of this kind but also for family cars as a whole.



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Personal Contract Purchase finance example:

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Total amount payable	£12,786.66
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Customer savings vary by model derivative. Specification shown not available on all models, specification varies across the range and is subject to change without notice. Available between 01.07.16 – 30.09.16 inclusive. £1,000 including VAT saving available for the purchase of a new Kia between 01.07.16 – 30.09.16. Offer subject to taking a test drive. Private customer registrations only, excluding Personal Contract Hire. Subject to status. T&Cs apply. 18s or over. Guarantee may be required. Kia Finance R+I 15R. Specification is subject to change without notice. Offers not available with any other offer. Offers not available in the Isle of Man or Channel Islands. Retail sales only. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For full terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk.

Latin-style back in for SEAT with rise in sales

With a raft of stunning award-winning new models released last year, SEAT's inexorable rise continues. The brand has reported record sales in the UK and the Spanish brand has rediscovered its reputation for eye-catching Latin style.

Leon

The new third generation Leon family is very attractively styled, even sportier to drive, classier inside and out and fitted with super-efficient engines and plenty of hi-tech equipment. Little wonder then that the stunning Leon 5-door hatch, sleekly-styled Leon SC three-door sports coupe and hot Leon Cupra model are in such high demand. So are Leon ST estate models, the latest of which is the high performance ST Cupra 280. Then there's the Leon X-PERIENCE, a very credible ruggedised all-wheel drive Leon ST estate. The Leon range is exactly the car the Spanish brand needs to resurrect its fortunes in the Focus-class sector.

Mii

Also achieving sales success for SEAT is the Mii citycar which offers the Spanish manufacturer a leading role in a sub-supermini segment. SEAT has added a thoughtful value proposition to a car that's undoubtedly spacious, frugal and clever.

Ibiza

The revised fourth generation Ibiza supermini offers small car buyers a smarter set of more eco-conscious hi-tech talents. Whichever Ibiza bodystyle you choose – five-door hatch, ST estate or the sportier three-door SC, you should be delighted with your choice.

If you're a practically-minded family buyer on a supermini budget who really needs the kind of space you'd find on something much bigger, then you're target market for SEAT's attractive fourth generation Toledo four-door saloon, now even more affordable and well equipped. With space for five, durable build quality, low running costs and an enormous boot, it's a lot of car for the money.

Alhambra

With up to seven seats that fold into the floor thanks to the Easy-Fold seating system, sliding side doors and a plethora of storage options give it strong practical credentials. SEAT's big latest Alhambra is one of the best models in its seven-seat MPV class. Modern turbocharged engines keep costs down too.

Ateca

SEAT's latest model is the Ateca. It looks a strong proposition in the family Crossover segment. It's well priced, sharply-styled and offers the sporty feel the sector seems to want. In fact, you wonder why it took the Spanish brand so long to bring us a car like this.

Under skin, the Ateca sits on the same MQB platform as its more conventional Leon stablemate and uses most of the same mechanicals found in Volkswagen's very similar Tiguan model. Inside, its fit and finish is of high quality.

In the front, there's decent room for two adults on supportive seats. It's the same in the back. The boot's a bit smaller than that pricier Volkswagen rival model, but it will easily swallow a couple of big cases and a pushchair. You access it via a tailgate offering the option of power operation: it's one of those you can activate by waving your foot beneath the bumper.

SEAT promises a line-up of petrol and diesel engines ranging in power from 115 to 190PS – expect a couple of petrol units and three diesels.

There's the choice of six-speed manual or optional dual-clutch automatic transmission, plus four-wheel drive will be available on the diesels.

In summary, if you were just about to buy a family crossover, an Ateca is certainly worth a look.



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Fabia and Yeti make a pretty good pair from Skoda

By James Parker

Skoda has upped the ante with its third-generation Fabia, introducing sharper, more assertive styling and clever tech that the company hopes will bring down the average age of its customers.

With more space inside, increased scope for personalisation and better efficiency from its engines, the Fabia gets the basics spot on.

Power in the mainstream line-up comes courtesy of three- and four-cylinder diesel and petrol engines, with outputs ranging between 59bhp to 108bhp.

Around 90 per cent of sales will be petrol-powered, split between the 1.2-litre four and 1.0-litre three-cylinder engines. The 1.2-litre unit is markedly quicker and more refined.

Skoda has worked hard to endow the Fabia with a supple ride, decent body control and low-effort steering.

This Skoda is designed to be practical and the company has announced a range of Simply Clever features.

The biggie is MirrorLink technology. This allows smart-phone apps to be displayed on the screen of the infotainment system which, amongst other things, takes the use of navigation software or personal music files to a new level. There's a multimedia device cradle in the centre console, an ice scraper in the fuel filler cap and a high-vis vest, now mandatory in many countries, in a convenient dedicated storage compartment in the driver's door.

Will this Fabia reprise the success of its predecessors? We wouldn't bet against it.

Capable

The Yeti is much improved and Skoda has provided us with a highly credible family crossover. It's smarter and more capable than before and also comes with an off road-orientated Outdoor bodystyle that allows you to take up the option of the brands much improved 4x4 system.

Though this segment's more demanding than it used to be, this Skoda's tougher too. You can see why so many people like it.

With this Yeti, you get a decent choice beneath the bonnet and also choose between front and all-wheel drive, plus manual or automatic dual clutch transmissions.

Petrol people get a 1.2-litre TSI unit and comes only with 2WD, while diesel drivers are given a 2.0-litre TDI powerplant with either 110 or 150PS and either front or 4WD options. The off-road function offers a softened throttle response for better control on the loose as well as a hill descent mode that maintains a constant speed on descents.

With electronically controlled fifth generation Haldex all-wheel drive and a ground clearance of 180mm, the outdoor versions are terrain-ready. The electronic differential lock also promises a smooth and comfortable start and grip on various road surfaces.

The Yeti features stylised front and rear elements such as beefy bumpers, an under-ride guard, side mouldings and door sills.

The fronts of both variants are horizontally more accentuated and feature a distinctive grille and redesigned headlights, available as an option with Bi-Xenon headlights featuring integrated LED daytime running lights.

The Yeti remains very appealing. It's spacious, safe, drives well, has a cool but understated image and extremely low running costs. This current car adds equipment, tidies the interior and tweaks the styling. In truth, not a lot needed changing.

The Yeti remains a class act in a market full of try-hard rivals.

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No hiding place in Juke!

If you need a car that blends into the background look somewhere else. Nissan's Juke has sold like hot cakes and the latest update keeps the design extreme but adds smarter technology, cleaner engines and more personalisation options.

Though the existing 110PS 1.5-litre dCi diesel continues unchanged, there's otherwise quite a bit of change to report beneath the Juke's stubby bonnet when it comes to the pair of petrol powerplants on offer: one is new to the Juke and the other extensively revised.

The 1.2-litre DIG-T petrol engine replaces the original model's aging 1.6-litre unit

and features turbocharging and direct injection to deliver 115ps and 190Nm of torque. Despite its modest size, this 1197cc turbo four packs a real punch, offering sharper acceleration and greater torque. The popular 1.6 DIG-T turbo petrol unit has been further improved to deliver lower end torque below 2,000rpm. Producing 190PS, this is available in both front and all-wheel drive versions. Go for an all-wheel drive variant and you have the option to specify the Xtronic transmission gearbox, which further improves fuel efficiency and acceleration.

The Juke's elevated stance but diminutive overall length doesn't promise a stellar driving experience, but as the last model proved, within a few yards you'll realise that this is a fun car to hustle about. Nissan Dynamic Control helps; an advanced driver control



FACT FILE

Nissan Juke

PRICES: £13,930

INSURANCE: 11E-20

CO2: [1.2 DIG-T] 126g/km

PERFORMANCE: [1.5 dCi] 0-60 10.8s / top speed 109mph

ECONOMY: [1.5 dCi] (combined) 61.4 mpg

SAFETY: stability control, traction control, ABS with EBA, EBD, twin front, side and curtain airbags

system giving the choice of three different driving modes, Normal, Sport or Eco, along with instant driving information and vehicle setting controls.

The torque vectoring system on the latest all-wheel drive model incorporates technology that Nissan initially used to such devastating effect on their GT-R supercar-slayer.

Yes, the Juke does still look like either something dredged up from the abyssal depths of the ocean or a fun, friendly and futuristic little runabout, depending on your perspective.

Whichever camp you're in, you have to

hand it to Nissan for not losing its resolve and watering this version down. Nissan also offers coloured inserts which can be applied to the mirror caps, side sills, roof spoiler and door handles in order to further personalise the exterior.

The Juke has deservedly carved itself a lucrative niche for itself with an inexpensive vehicle that drives well, is cheap to run and which isn't afraid to assert its own personality.

The latest changes add tech inside and some uprated petrol engines. It continues to be the car that none of its rivals have come close to answering.



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Longer warranty available upon request,
fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

K NASH & SON CH, combi boiler &
6 radiators £2200, 7 year warranty avail-
able 01902 790327/07973 712106.

CENTRA HEAT

Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate.
Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs
£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler
Installed in August. T&C apply

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We are really happy with our Classified advertising package and the business it brings us.

Martin - Centra Heat

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
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Pitched roofing & lead work.
Flat roofing, rubber & felt.
All repointing.
Free quotes. 01902 820996

ROOFING

main, flat, felt, firestone
rubber, fibreglass, all
repointing, fascias, soffits,
gutters. Free quotes. All
quotes beaten, 8am-8pm.
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MG ROOFING

Flat roofs, tiling, roof
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01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

rubbish removal

LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips
Needed, Load/Remove any Waste,
House Clearance. 07969 626392

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Champion Skip Hire

West Birmingham and
Black Country Skip Hire

Call us today on
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Cheap as skips

AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE

Mini, midi and
large skips

Also available mini
digger with driver

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01902 405745
07719 671845

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DOMESTIC PLASTERING

rendering & small building
work undertaken. 40 years
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Call Roy
07887 495726
07583 643932

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING

Services, Home/Garden Improve-
ments, Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE

Clean and Reliable. All Work
Undertaken. All Areas. Call
0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

removals

KT REMOVALS

12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
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07771 727119

A MAN WITH A VAN

Single items/Full loads from £20.
01902 830870 / 01384 340206

ASB REMOVALS

Cheap and reliable
removal service. Insured.
07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

CALL DEAN NOW

For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830870 / 01384 340206

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN

Removals, clearances, large/small.
01902 741546, 07899 635852.

KINGS OF THE ROAD REMOVAL

Single items/Full loads from £20.
OAP discount. Any 07512
395370, Keith 07545 618231.

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KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES

We move anything.
Professional service,
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DFS approved and we
take the stress away.
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S&F ROOFING & GUTTERING

Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced,
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Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 6pm

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Rates. Call 01902 882600

6 Property

accommodation to let

A 2/3 BED PROPERTY Wednes-
field, 3 Bed Whitmore Reans, 1 Bed
Finchfield DSS OK. 01902 686605

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DUDLEY Clean, furnished bedsit
with own bath/kitchen, £87 p/w, for
mature DSS. 07550 002548

HIGH QUALITY Furnished studio
flat, Tettenhall area. No DSS
07976263435 / 01902 700 028.

PENDEFOUR PARK: Two-bed flat,
unfurnished, garage, £450 pcm,
Refs / Deposit. 07785 252222.

SMART ROOMS in shared house.
Netherton, from £85 pwk Single,
336 pwk DSS, inc bills. No DSS.
07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

overseas property

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses have the required
Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and
using guns.

BSA LIGHTNING 2.2 air rifle, AGS
telescopic sights, £150.
07922 609987.

vets

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BLACK STANDARD POODLE

Puppies, KC reg, excellent pedi-
gree £550. 07878 294508.

GOLDEN LAB Male Puppy

KC applied, 9 weeks, FTC Lines, 1st
vac's, fleed, wormed to date, last
one of litter. £650. 07938 598881.

JACK RUSSELL puppies

microchipped, vet checked, injec-
tions. £260. 01384 233910.

KITTENS X 2

both girls, one
tortoiseshell, one black and white,
£25 to ensure good home.
07450 345164.

KOI CARP

for sale, beautiful
colours, different sizes, collection
only, £45 each.
07515 370995 or 07702 242707.

PARROT/BIRD CAGE

FOR SALE.
50 x 40 x 60cms: £25, with perch
and feeding features.
07751 423281.

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nated. £495. 01902 593134.

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6 Property

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DUDLEY Clean, furnished bedsit
with own bath/kitchen, £87 p/w, for
mature DSS. 07550 002548

HIGH QUALITY Furnished studio
flat, Tettenhall area. No DSS
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PENDEFOUR PARK: Two-bed flat,
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Refs / Deposit. 07785 252222.

SMART ROOMS in shared house.
Netherton, from £85 pwk Single,
336 pwk DSS, inc bills. No DSS.
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overseas property

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DISCOVERY 200TDI, 1993, 169,000 miles, black, electric windows, auto, central locking, blue cloth, owned 15 years, no MOT. £1,200. 01902 665663.

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FORD MONDEO 54 plate, Mot June 2017, 49,000 miles, service history, £1,100 ono. 07593 508692.

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HONDA CIVIC 1.6 5dr Hatchback, Silver metallic, 10 months MOT, W reg. £550. o.n.o. 01902 340824 / 07847 533817.

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VAUXHALL VECTRA 06 reg, blue, full MOT, 83k miles, some service history, good condition. £950 ono. 01902 269563, 07837 859391.

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LADY, 48, 5f12, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679

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BROWN eyed brummie female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTm male, 66-73, for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 404186

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Discretion expected/assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535

VERY attractive intelligent blonde, 59, WLTm tall attractive solvent man. No Tattoos. South Yorks. Text only Mailbox: 5430085

55 year old female looking for friendship, meals out, coffee, chats, work part time and carer for parent. Text only Mailbox: 5517508

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CAROLINE, slim attractive 40's fit female, CHAC, divorced and ready to be romanced again, seeks similar minded male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423301

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KATHERINE, 45, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live



Committee members Malcolm Raybould, Dave McLean, Brian Lester, Roger Brindley and Simon Cater



Trophy presented to Springvale's Mally Whitehouse



Roger Brindley hands over a cheque to Simon Cater



A Pensnett Panthers quartet with the County Cup

Beacon League teams make light work of a successful season



Bradmore Social's Lee Brookes with Brian Lester

AN established league is ringing in the changes as it kicks off its 40th anniversary season.

At the league's end-of-season 2015/16 awards, Beacon League chairman Brian Lester heaped praise on the achievements of its member clubs. Now, a new format has been introduced for the new campaign, which bosses believe could go some way to saving the amateur game in the Midlands.

Last saw 17 teams compete across two Sunday football divisions. The league has managed to retain that same number for the forthcoming season, but will operate across a single division.

Ceremony

Teams will play each other just once, competing for the Redbox Beacon Championship. An added change is that once the regular season has finished, the league will be split into two groups, with the top half competing for the Martyn Chell Cup and the remainder vying for the Clinton Cup, sponsored by Lawsons.

These changes will see teams again meeting just once, the top four contesting semi-finals then a final over the second half of the campaign. All teams will be entered into the NDT-sponsored Lester Charity Cup, which is run on a straight knockout basis.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Dave McLean

"We've had a very successful season, particularly in the two outside cups that are run by Birmingham County FA."

The 2015/16 awards ceremony gave members the chance to reflect on a season in which Beacon teams excelled both on the domestic front and in outside cup competitions.

First Division Pensnett Panthers and Premier Division Dynamo Dudley reached their respective Sunday Amateur Cup and Vase county finals, with success going to the former.

The duo also won their league championships, while Dynamo completed a superb treble, winning the NDT (Midlands) Premier Cup for a third consecutive year and lifting the Lester Charity Cup.

Springvale Steelers Academy were the other major league winners, defeating Pensnett Panthers in a

thrilling Falcon Insurance Beacon final and also finishing runners-up in the First Division.

Members from each of the winning teams were present to collect awards, while Bradmore Social's Lee Brookes was named secretary of the year and a cheque for £210 was presented to Compton Hospice fundraiser Simon Cater from league treasurer Roger Brindley. Newcomers New Park Village scooped the fair play award.

Tremendous

Lester said: "I think we've had a very successful season, particularly in the two outside cups that are run by Birmingham County FA. Pensnett's victory in the county final was a tremendous achievement for the league, while Dynamo Dudley also represented the league with pride and no less little impressive football."

"It's been a very good season in terms of what we've done on the pitch, and one of the more pleasing aspects for me was when I've been round the grounds and watched matches."

"It's been a partnership very much between ourselves (the committee) and the club's and particularly the new clubs, who have said how much they enjoyed the season with us."

Sponsors are being sought for the Chell Cup. To help, call league development officer Dave Clinton on 07964 730275.

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Sport

League rings changes to mark 40th anniversary

Page 43



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Athletes on right track for success

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club got into the Olympic spirit on Friday with an evening of track racing. But unlike the exotic surroundings of Rio they ploughed their circular furrow at The Dell stadium in Brierley Hill as the club hosted their Magic Mile event.

The evening involved a number of races over a mile with all competitors asked for their previous times so they could be seeded and allocated a start time to ensure they were racing against others of a similar ability. This made for an entertaining and very competitive night.

With the event open to runners from the Sweatshop Running Community (SRC) and a few invited guests, as well as the host club, more than 130 athletes pinned a number to their vest on an evening where races came thick and fast at 15 minute intervals.

Trophy

Dudley Kingswinford's Helen Tromans was the fastest female on the night winning her heat by a considerable distance to clock a time of 6.12, from the SRC duo of Lauren Sanders in 6.47 (good enough an age group prize) and Louise Sanders in 6.50. Catherine Mayall of SRC won the F35 prize in 7.05.

The men's event was a little more competitive but again the winner was in little doubt as Sam Lloyd-Perks took away the trophy, running for Sweatshop. Thee Wolverhampton & Bilston athlete clocked a lightning fast time of 4.55 for victory.

Meanwhile, runner up Alex Sobierski claimed the fastest M35 prize with a time of 5.01. Stuart Perkins was third in 5.09 and Dave Norman was fourth bagging the 1st M45 prize in 5.21.

Yozza's in line to make first Grand Slam appearance

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes is in line to be the only Black Country thrower at Wolverhampton's Grand Slam of Darts.

The only PDC tournament to formally invite players from the BDO takes place for a ninth year at the Civic Hall, from November 12-20. Tipton's Hughes is in the running to secure a place and make his Grand Slam debut.

The organisation's champion, Scott Waites, is one of four who qualify automatically and is the only BDO thrower to have won the Grand Slam, in 2010.

World Championship runner-up Jeff Smith, World Masters winner Glen Durrant and World Trophy titlist Darryl Fitton are also in. The remaining four places for the BDO will be assigned to their highest-ranked competitors who haven't already qualified. Hughes currently has the last spot as their world No 6 with Danny Noppert, Martin Adams and Scott Mitchell above him.

The final field for the competition will be determined on Monday October 24.

Grand Slam tickets are on sale now at the box office on 0870 320 7000 or online via www.theticketfactory.com/pdc.

Worrall at the double for Hammer win



Steve Worrall

FORMER Cradley Heathens hero Steve Worrall made history with a dramatic win in the 2016 F.A.S.T Golden Hammer at Monmore Green.

Worrall became the first rider of the modern era to win their showpiece individual event on two occasions after a tense run-off win over Kyle Howarth.

Having also won the prize in 2014, he joins an illustrious club of multiple Golden Hammer winners alongside former world champions Erik Gundersen and Sam Ermolenko plus iconic British talent Kenny Carter. Worrall, who led Heathens to a

Speedway

clean sweep of National League honours two years ago, roared around Wolves reserve Kyle Howarth on the opening bend of heat two for a crucial victory.

Home favourite Ashley Morris lowered Worrall's colours with a brave first bend in heat seven, but Worrall sliced under Cradley skipper Max Clegg on the fourth bend of lap two to limit the damage.

From then, he was imperious – reeling off three successive race wins. His heat

18 win over Josh Bates, who looked set to challenge for the crown himself when he broke Morris's National League track record in heat one, ensured Worrall was guaranteed at least a run-off.

Third was Josh Bates on countback courtesy of his win over Heathens' Morris, the only rider to defeat Worrall.

F.A.S.T Golden Hammer: Steve Worrall 14 (1st after run-off), Kyle Howarth 14, Josh Bates 12, Ashley Morris 12, Max Clegg 11, Adam Ellis 10, Dan Bewley 9, Adam Roynon 9, Tom Perry 7, Ben Morley 5, Matt Williamson 5, Nathan Graves 4, Lee Dicken 4, Luke Chessell 1, Richard Andrews 1, Lee Smart 1, Ben Basford 0 (res), Bradley Andrews 0 (res).

CRADLEY HOME RUN IS HALTED

CRADLEY suffered their first defeat at Monmore Green in five years as they went down 41-48 against local rivals Birmingham.

The Heathens suffered derby day heartache and saw their National League play-offs hopes dealt a bitter blow on a disappointing night.

Will Pottinger's side had not lost a home meeting at the track since losing to Buxton back in August 2011. But the all-around strength of the table-topping Brummies proved too much.

The visitors drew first blood as Jack Parkinson-Blackburn joined Jack Smith for a 5-1.

Parkinson-Blackburn picked off Bradley Andrews in heat four to keep them ahead – and the talented 15-year-old roared clear with Danyon Hume to move them six clear in heat eight.

A fine ride from Luke Chessell to keep Hume at bay in heat five had briefly moved the hosts within two, but their lack of lower order strength cost them dearly.

Skipper Max Clegg won heat 10 but saw partner Bradley Andrews fall as he battled for third place. Morris then stormed clear in the next race but Ben Basford was unable to make any impression on Hume at the back.

When Chessell was pressured into a mistake by the impressive Parkinson-Blackburn in heat 12 and Bradley Andrews fell in the penultimate race, it gave the visitors an unchallenged 5-0 which all but secured victory.

Unbeaten top two Morris and Clegg blasted around Liam Carr in heat 13 to keep their slim hopes alive. But the best efforts of Richard Andrews were not enough to split Parkinson-Blackburn and Tom Bacon in the penultimate race, as his fall saw the Brummies wrap up the victory.

Morris and Clegg capped off perfect paid maximums to end on a high in the final race.

Cradley: Ashley Morris 14+1, Max Clegg 14+1, Luke Chessell 7, Richard Andrews 3+2, Ben Basford 2, Bradley Andrews 1, James Purchase R/R.

Birmingham: Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 11+5, Tom Bacon 10+1, Danyon Hume 8+1, Tom Perry 7, Darryl Ritchings 5+2, Liam Carr 4+1, Jack Smith 3.

Brothers on course for victory



Harvey and Lewis Jones with Himley junior captain Alex Cox

BROTHERS Lewis and Harvey Jones proved themselves top of their respective classes as both won big at Himley Hall Golf Centre.

Lewis, aged 12, shot two-under par around the main course to win a tournament staged for 11-to-18-year-olds on the centre's junior captain's day.

His younger brother Harvey then made it a double celebration by taking victory in the four to 10-year-old's competition on the pitch and putt course.

The seven-year-old's score of six-under par proved too strong for his competitors.

Luke Power, who organises junior activities at Himley Hall, said: "We put on competitions most weekends for our junior members but this one was particularly special as it fell on our junior captain's day."

"Lewis and Harvey are among our best players and have won a number of competitions in the past. But this was the first time they have ever won on the same day."

A number of other prizes were given away on the day by junior captain Alex Cox. The event was deemed a success for the centre, whose junior ranks have been steadily on the rise in recent years.

Himley now have 19 junior members aged between four and 18 and hope to increase that number further still in the months ahead. For more information call Himley Hall Golf Centre on 01902 895207.

Fit DKs tune up with big friendly win

DUDLEY Kingswinford looked fit and raring to go as they beat Bromsgrove 33-12 in the Friday night friendly.

The game was of three periods. Matt Squire received a yellow card for killing a ball, which led to the opening try for Bromsgrove.

DK then forced a lineout in Wanderers' corner, the DK pack set up a driving maul, and were able to keep it moving and drove over the line. Last man with the ball was Joe Francis and Duncan Tompkins made 7-5 with the conversion.

Hooker Luke Greenwood started the move which lead to DK's second try with a quick tap penalty, which caught the defence struggling to get their line set and an off load to Stef Shillingford saw him dive under the posts – with the extras from Duncan it was 14-5.

The second period of the game saw both sides make changes but both defences held firm until Bromsgrove did manage one try.

DK sealed the win with a third period which saw them gain three tries to none from Bromsgrove. The first came from Ewan Robinson, a back row forward who made an impression both with the try and his tackling. The second was a second for Shillingford after good phase play by the whole DK 15. One of these tries was converted by George Ingram to 26-12. The scoring was finished off from the row by Matt Perks who drove over strongly through contact, converted by Connah Jones to make the final score 33-12.

All the players were looking fit and there was no drop off in intensity and precision due to fatigue. There was no marked difference when the personnel changed for DK and there were at least another six players unavailable that night who will come into the reckoning.

Tonight at 6.45 DK entertain Silhilians at Heathbrook.

Six teams line up for T20 finals week

THE Black Country Floodlit T20 week takes place next week. Group games start at 5.30pm on Monday, running through to the finals day on Friday (August 26).

All the razzmatazz of T20 cricket will be on show with Himley, Brewood, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge and two new additions Halesowen and a Staffs Clubs select XI battling it out for the coveted JW Brandrick trophy and the £1,000 winners prize. Hope to see you there.

On Sunday, the semi finals and final of the Staffordshire Under 19 T20 Blast competition take place. Full details at <http://www.himleyccc.co.uk/>

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